

Mouth of the River

Informing and Entertaining Since 1963

October 22, 2008

MEET THE NEWBIES



Laura Gallant

Oyster River has been invaded. Not invaded by aliens, but new teachers and staff. To help you get to know them, MOR is giving you a small introduction to OR's newest additions.

Who: **Mr. McCann**

Position: Assistant Principal

MOR: What brought you to Oyster River?

McCann: I have been here for 12 years as a special education teacher. Then I applied for the job.

MOR: Why did you want to switch to an administrative position?

McCann: I'm in an administrative program at UNH. The position worked out so that I could stay [at OR.]

MOR: What is your favorite part so far?

McCann: Seeing a lot of people and being out and about.

MOR: What's your favorite movie and why?

McCann: That's a tough one... It's a tie, Field of Dreams and Star Wars Episode 4. Field of Dreams, because it's a neat story about people being able to live out their dreams. Star Wars, because of the action and special effects. It's a great story about good vs. evil. I also used to love the action figures.

MOR: If you could have any super power what would it be?

McCann: I would love to fly. It would be cool to fly wherever I want to go.



Who: **Mrs. Brigante**

Position: Math department; teaches Algebra and Geometry

MOR: What brought you to Oyster River?

Brigante: I moved here a month ago from Vermont. Oyster River was one of the public schools I applied to. It was my number one choice. I came in for an interview and I loved it.

MOR: What made you want to be a teacher?

Brigante: Well, I was influenced by one of my teachers in high school. I pursued

a math degree in college. Now I'm a teacher!

MOR: What's your favorite part of Oyster River so far?

Brigante: I'm really involved with sports. I coach JV Field Hockey. So, that has been fun to see the kids even outside of the classroom.

MOR: If you could have one song play whenever you enter a room, what song would it be?

Brigante: Um, a Carrie Underwood song. Country song. I don't know.

MOR: If you were trapped on a desert island, and could only have three things, what would they be?

Brigante: The first thing I would probably choose would be a cell phone if I had service, but then I probably wouldn't be trapped on the island... Or a computer. Then probably food.

Who: **Mr. Cangelo**

Position: Social Studies department; teaches AP US History, Cit Ed, and US History 1&2.

MOR: What brought you to OR?

Cangelo: I applied close to home. It made sense for me. Also, I like the reputation of the school.

MOR: What made you want to teach?

Cangelo: I have to be cheesy. 9/11 pushed me to do something I wanted to do. I love teaching and contributing to society. I won't get rich but I have fun.

MOR: What's your favorite part about OR so far?

Cangelo: The people, it's a very supporting environment. Students want to learn.

MOR: What are your hobbies when not teaching?

Cangelo: I love music. I golf. I coach boys' JV Soccer and I hope to do basket ball.

MOR: What are three words to describe you and your teaching?



Cangelo: Passionate, fun, and crazy. My students think I'm insane, but I haven't been diagnosed yet.

Who: **Mrs. Milliken**

Position: World Language department; teaches French 1, 3, and 4.

MOR: What brought you to the high school?

Milliken: I came here during an internship, and Mrs. Schaeffer told me about the position at the middle school. I taught there for 17 years. Moving to the high school seemed like a logical step for me. With Madame Smith leaving early I wanted to help the department.

MOR: What made you want to be a teacher?

Milliken: I really enjoy working with people and seeing them succeed. There's nothing else I would rather do.

MOR: What's your favorite part of the high school so far?

Milliken: Probably seeing kids [from the middle school] and how much they have grown up.

MOR: If you could have any super power what would it be?

Milliken: To be in more than one place at once. My family is all over the country and it would be fun to see what they were up to.

MOR: What's your favorite movie?

Milliken: What's it called? With the girl from... Love Actually! That's what's it's called.



Who: **Mr. Ryan**

Position: Special Education Teacher

MOR: What brought you to Oyster

River?

Ryan: The quality of education at Oyster River is what got me interested.

MOR: What made you want to be a teacher?

Ryan: I don't want to be a teacher (sarcastic). It's the willingness of working with those with open minds.

MOR: If you could have one song play whenever you go into a room, what song would it be?

Ryan: I guess Comfortably Numb by Pink Floyd. It's just such a calm song.

MOR: If you could have any super power what would it be?

Ryan: The ability to end war. Is that a super power? If I had to fit the mold I would fly, but I'd end war first.

MOR: If you were stuck on a desert island, what three things would you bring?

Ryan: I'd probably bring a lot of water, a very good book, and I'd bring my wife.



Who: **Mrs. Machanoff**

Position: Guidance Counselor

MOR: What brought you to Oyster River?

Machanoff: One of the appealing aspects was the smaller school setting. I came from Salem, where they have 2,100 students.

MOR: What made you want to be a guidance counselor?

Machanoff: Looking back, my guidance counselor was kind of the older model, where they just did scheduling and that kind of information. I see value in doing more than that.

MOR: What's your favorite part of Oyster River so far?

Machanoff: I've had a lot of students come down and make appointments just to meet me, which I wasn't expecting.

MOR: If you could have any super

power what would it be and why?

Machanoff: I guess I would say teleportation. It would be nice to be able to zap to different places quickly and eliminate the commuting time.

MOR: If you could have one song play whenever you walked into a room, what song would it be?

Machanoff: The one that comes to mind is Dancing Queen.





By Jordan Caldon~

On Wednesday October 29th the Harlem Superstars are coming to Oyster River High School. The comedy basketball team will be playing against the "dream team" being put together by Don Maynard. This event is to benefit senior scholarships and will be a blast of fun. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and a bake sale to benefit the cause. There will also be an appearance from a surprise coach. Please be there to help us raise money for our seniors and also to have fun!



Mouth of the River

ORHS REACTS TO NEW GRADE SCALE



Michael Noronha

It was one of the most fiercely debated topics in years. Countless debates and malevolent letters perforated the school district, igniting a partisan controversy over a seemingly small issue. And now the issue has been resolved.

Under pressure to synchronize with most American schools, ORHS has changed its grade scale from an 8 point scale to a 10 point scale. With the new scale, the grade intervals are widened, and the failure percentage has been moved down from 68% to 64%.

The change was a subject of much debate in school board and faculty meetings. "It was a divisive way to bring about change," commented Principal Laura Rogers. Those in favor of the change argued that some colleges and universities may inadvertently ignore the fact that our grade scale was more difficult than most. By changing the grade scale it would make ORHS students seem more competitive to colleges. "Parents were concerned about the way transcripts would look," said Rogers.

Among the opposition, it was argued that it would detract from the school's rigorousness. "We have lowered the bar for all students," said teacher Matt Pappas. "It encourages students to accept mediocrity." It has also been argued that the school could convert grades over to a 10 point scale on the transcript rather than trust that colleges will do it.

Now that the change has been made, faculty and students are trying to adapt after decades on the old scale. "For math and science teachers, it's fine because they don't have to adjust," explained senior Weilin Li. This is because grading is based on a fixed numerical system, and grades are simply entered according to the corresponding letter interval. But among faculty in the arts and humanities, where grading is more objective, the change has been more difficult. "I don't give numbers...I still know when a student has done A- work," said teacher Alex Herlihy. "I'm still adjusting to it," said Pappas, "I've been teaching for 10 years."

Unlike the faculty, the reaction among students has been generally dismissive. "I don't really care," said senior Will Walker. Such opinions are prevalent among upperclassmen, but for the younger students, the change has even been well received. "It's awesome," stated sophomore Peter Attisano. "It's what we had in the middle school. Now instead of a 92 being a B plus, I get an A minus."

Regardless of the various thoughts about the grade scale, the change has been implemented and it is here to stay. Only time will tell if the change was for the better or worse, or made no impact at all as another year of grade reports and college applications commences.

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Daniel Day

After 33 years of serving the community, the UNH Dairy Bar closed its doors last December for a major renovation to the facility. In August the UNH Dairy Bar reopened with many changes. While some people loved the changes, others didn't.

The restaurant now has a new menu that focuses on sustainable food from local vendors, such as bagels from the Bagelry in Durham and milk and yogurt from Stoneyfield Farm in Londonderry. Other changes included replacing the wait staff with a service line for a quicker service and a new interior with new furniture.

All these changes took place when UNH Dining took over the management from the Thompson School of Applied Science. According to Jon Plodzick, Director of Dining, the Old Dairy Bar was a

financial drain on the College of Life Science and Agriculture (COLSA), which runs the Thompson School. It was in major need of renovations that COLSA couldn't afford. As a result, the Dairy Bar was given to UNH Dining, which already had 11 successful locations on campus.

Regina Smick-Attisano, director of the Thompson School of Applied Science, was not happy about the decision. "There wasn't anything wrong with the way the Dairy Bar was being operated on a daily basis," she said. Smick-Attisano explained that of the 33 years the Thompson School ran the Dairy Bar, only the past five saw financial trouble, with train station renovations and road work on Main St. being a factor. She stressed, "This was not a decision the Thompson School was very happy about."

Still, some people welcome the change. UNH employee Rob Thompson likes the new Dairy

Bar. "I think the food is better. It's a nicer atmosphere," he said. He did mention, however, that he misses the prices at the old Dairy Bar.

UNH sophomore Lauren Mackin also likes the new Dairy Bar. "I like that they have a lot of home grown food here and a lot of organic and it's clean and in a good area," she said.

Although some people seem to like the new Dairy Bar, Smick-Attisano just can't get herself to go try it. She mentioned that her 7th grade daughter went and couldn't believe the change. However, she knows that what's done is done. "As much as this hurt to give up our beloved Dairy Bar, change is inevitable and we do wish UNH Dining success with their version of the UNH Dairy Bar," she said.

THE SCOOP ON THE DAIRY BAR



The UNH Dairy Bar/ Train Station went through renovations last winter.

Old Dairy Bar

Managed by the Thompson School
A full wait staff and sit down diner format
hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
great view of the ice cream
food is home made
100 flavors of ice cream?
Chicken fingers and fries
regular silverware and paper cups
generous serving sizes for ice cream
Served Blacke's Ice Cream

New Dairy Bar

Managed by UNH Dining
Service line, "grab and go" format
M-Fri 6:30am-8:00pm Weekends 11:00am-8:00pm
no view of the ice cream
food is provided by local vendors
14 flavors of ice cream!
Chicken fingers and fries? you got to be kidding me!
organic silverware and cups
"more reasonable" serving sizes for ice cream
Serves Blake's Ice Cream

When Monsieur Lord was a lifeguard, he saved three lives

October 22, 2008



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE HEATS UP

Laura Gallant

"If McCain gets elected chances are that he's going to die in office. He's had like three kinds of cancer, and if he dies that means Sarah Palin would be president. Boy would that suck!" exclaimed Keaton Donovan, a senior.

As November 4th approaches, the presidential race has become an ever-present subject in the media. It is an election of change and excitement; inspiring record numbers of young voters to become active. Every day new information is released regarding the candidates, Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama, and their running mates Sarah Palin and Joe Biden. There are a variety of opinions that surround the candidates as the race heats up.

With President George Bush's low approval rating of 28%, many people think Obama would be a welcome change to the current politics. Brian Zottoli, a social studies teacher, likes the idea of a change in the government from one party to the other.

Donovan agrees that he would rather not have another Republican reign for the next four years. He feels that a change is needed, because the White House has been controlled by mostly Republicans for the past 30 years.

However, Obama's lack of experience and foreign policy has been a major weak point that the Republicans have targeted. Michelle Foster, a junior, said she feels that Obama would be more qualified to be president after another term in congress. To counteract this opinion, Obama has tried to make up for this weakness by appointing Biden as his running mate.

Biden, "the ultimate insider," has a lot of foreign policy experience and has been on many committees. He could either protect Obama's weaknesses or highlight it. Biden is also a contradiction of much of what Obama has spoken out against. "I think that Biden is against everything that Obama is preaching, with change in Washington, because Biden is old school Washington," said Zottoli. This choice of a running mate was explained in an article in The Boston Herald. It said that Obama worried that he could not beat McCain without help from a seasoned politician.

McCain brings to the table what Obama cannot, experience. McCain is rife with experience. Foster said, "I like his policy on war. He is a veteran, so I know that he'll know how to handle the war in the best manner." He also has experience in a different way. At 72 years old he would be the oldest first term president in the history of the United States. His ripened age has drawn more media attention than usual to his running mate Palin.

In the eye of the media, Palin has less experience than Obama. She was mayor of a town smaller than Durham, and was then governor of Alaska for a little less than two years. Since the majority of McCain's attacks on Obama were about his inexperience, he has been accused of being hypocritical by the media at large. Foster feels differently. "Sarah Palin won't be our president. She won't be in charge of our army and country. If McCain



The two possible vice presidents (Photos courtesy of Google Images)

were to pass away in office, she would have gained experience by that time, enough to be a good president." In McCain's announcement of Palin as his running mate, he said in an article in the associated press, "As the head of the Alaskan National Guard and as the mother of a soldier herself, Gov. Palin understands what it takes to lead our nation and she understands the importance of supporting our troops." The campaign later said, in the same article, that, "She is ready to be president."

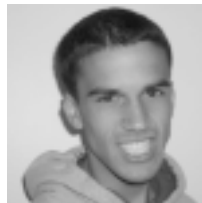
Despite this, she has been accused of still not having enough experience, especially in foreign policy. In defense, various news reporters, including Steve Doocy of FOX News, have said that Palin does have foreign policy experience, because, "She is right up there next door to Russia." To which The Daily Show's John Stuart replied, "Alaska's also near the North Pole, so she must also be close to Santa." Zottoli feels that her experiences are inadequate. "Maybe she's dealt with some fishing regulations over in Alaska, but not enough to qualify her having foreign policy experience," he said.

The election is not until November, and so far it is looking like a close race. Obama recently pulled ahead again of McCain the polls, by a nine point lead. Will the president be young, inexperienced Obama, or the older, experienced McCain? Or will it even be Palin, the running mate who Tina Fey said is, "One heart beat away from the white house."



The two presidential hopefuls (Photos courtesy of Google Images)

FIRST TIME VOTING?



If you were born on or before November 4th, 1990 and are a U.S. citizen, you will be eligible to vote in this year's presidential election. Here are some things you need to know before you cast your first ballot.

Michael Noronha

-You will need to register before you can vote. This can be done within 10 days before the election at your town or city clerk's office. You may also register on Election Day at the polls, but this can be time consuming with the crowds.

-When you register, you must provide proof of age, citizenship, and residency. The ideal documents for these purposes are a U.S. passport, birth certificate, naturalization papers, or a driver's license. Various forms of documentation are acceptable, but recognize that all three criteria must be met. A school ID is not sufficient.

-It is not necessary to affiliate yourself with any political parties except for participation in primary elections.

-Once you have registered to vote, you will be registered for life in that town for all school, town, state, and national elections.

-Should you have any questions about the process, contact your local town office, ask your parents, or talk to a social studies teacher.

UNH PREZ CONNECTS CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY IN INAUGURAL SPEECH



Daniel Day

If you think UNH doesn't matter to you, try to imagine Durham without it. No pizza parlors, no hockey games, and no Oyster River as we know. Many believe UNH is a

major reason why Oyster River is a great school. Roughly 20% of Oyster River graduates attend UNH full time, with many current students working or taking classes there. Now UNH has a president who has plans to make this university better than ever.

On Wednesday, September 16, 2008, Mark Huddleston celebrated his inauguration, just over a year after he became the 19th president of the University of New Hampshire. His inaugural address reached out to the community beyond the UNH campus.

John Crosier, A USNH trustee, also

commented on the university's role in the community. "The UNH within the state borders is less well known than it is beyond the state borders," he said. "I'd like to tell the students at Oyster River that they are coming from a great institution, and they should look at least at the University of New Hampshire, or one of our other university family [schools]."

Marco Dorfsman, chair of the Faculty Senate, agrees with Crosier. "UNH has been for many, many years in a great relationship with the local high school," he said. "Besides, this is kind of your stomping grounds. You come along and use facilities like the training, and that's a great relationship to keep and nurture."

Huddleston agrees that the relationship between the UNH and the Oyster River communities is important. "I always thought that we are neighbors. It moves us to look out for one another and see that what's good for Oyster River is good for UNH and vice versa," Huddleston told the Mouth of the River.

THE AMETHYST INITIATIVE

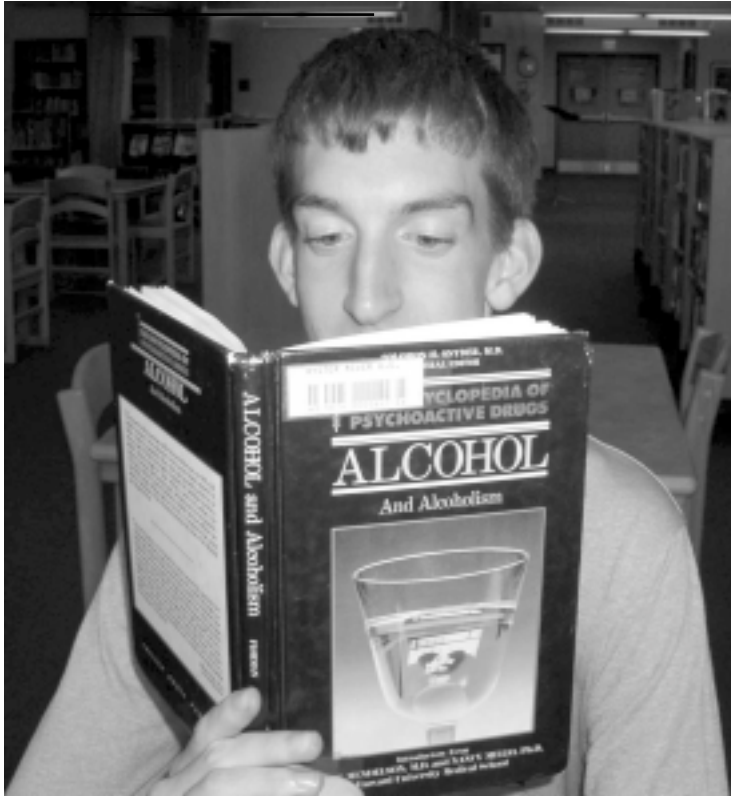


Nate Hoff

"A 30-rack of Keystone Light is a usual and typical purchase of any one person on any given Friday or Saturday night," stated Store 24 clerk, Mike. "I always take extra caution to I.D. the purchaser but I'm not dumb, I'm a college kid myself. I know that when they walk out the door anybody of any age could be indulging in the beer."

It seems like every year the topic and controversy surrounding the drinking age in the United States resurfaces. This year is no exception, except that instead of angry and frustrated teenagers raising the argument, some university presidents are pointing out that the drinking age needs to be lowered from 21 to 18. In July of 2008, an organization by the name of The Amethyst Initiative was established by Middlebury College president John McCardell. After contacting many fellow chancellors and presidents of Universities across the nation, McCardell was able to obtain roughly 100 signatures. The support of the presidents and chancellors has placed the Amethyst Initiative into the national spotlight.

The goal of the Amethyst Initiative is to raise awareness to the fact that on college campuses the drinking age of 21 is simply not working. Currently the Amethyst Initiative holds 130 signatures.



Matt Webber enjoys an American classic.

In an interview with [courant.com](#), the Trinity College president, and Amethyst Initiative signer James F. Jones Jr. stated, "The fact that kids can't drink until they're 21 legally, simply forces them to do it clandestinely, and when they do, you get irresponsible behavior in the residence halls. You get younger students getting older students to go to the liquor store for them, and you get the binge drinking in the dorm rooms."

Agreeing with Jones is Johns Hopkins president William R. Brody. "Kids are going to drink whether it's legal or illegal. We'd at least be able to have a more open dialogue with students about drinking, as opposed to this sham where people don't want to talk about it because it's a violation of the law," said Brody in an interview with The Baltimore Sun.

It is apparent that many presidents and chancellors, of high profile and low profile universities, believe that a lower drinking age would help fix the current problem with underage irresponsible drinking. However, what about the students?

"College is all about the partying and drinking," said UNH senior, Chris Williams. "At the age of 18, I would definitely have just gone into a casual bar, and had a few drinks with my friends instead of running around just trying to get drunk for the sake of getting drunk behind my parent's backs." Williams supports the Amethyst Initiative and believes that if the drinking age were to be lowered to 18 many students would start drinking responsibly instead of drinking for the feeling of being drunk.

"It is part of the college culture," says UNH junior Laura Walcott. "If you don't go out at night drinking it is going to make it very hard to meet people. If the drinking age is lowered to 18 I think that a lot of the younger students wouldn't feel so pressured into having to start drinking once they get to college because they would have experienced drinking back in high school."

An organization that does not agree with the Amethyst Initiative is Mothers

Against Drunk Driving. MADD believes that the current approach to lower the drinking age is simply a "cop-out" claiming that lowering the drinking age will only cause more drinking related deaths due to the immaturity level and decision making ability of an 18 year old.

Proving the point of MADD's argument is Oyster River High School junior Matt Webber. "I think that if when I turn 18 and the drinking age were to be 18 that my birthday celebration would start out with just a few drinks but that by the end of the ordeal many drinking games would be played and people might be a little tipsy," he said.

Organizations like MADD need not worry however. A motion to lower the drinking age is going to take a lot more effort than 130 college presidents signing a petition. Movement and actions from law makers and government officials would have to take place, a feat that doesn't exactly happen overnight, and something of which the Amethyst Initiative members are well aware.

NEWS

FULL BELLIES



Nate Hoff

"It was the worst eating pain you could have, doubled...wait...no, quadrupled," said Oyster River High School junior, Jack Starbranch. "I ate all but four burgers, half the fries and half the shake. I couldn't take it anymore, there just wasn't a lot of burger, but a lot of bread," stated Starbranch.

What Starbranch is talking about is the newest and probably the most talked about local food competition, known as "The Slapshot" at JP's Eatery in downtown Durham. Testing even the biggest of stomachs, "The Slapshot" includes 15 sliders (mini burgers), 1 large fry, and 1 milkshake. This must all be consumed by one person within half an hour. If successful, the eater receives a JP's t-shirt, a ten dollar JP's gift certificate, and their photo on the Wall of Fame. Lastly, the eater will have the platter named



Jack Starbranch gave it his best.. but it just wasn't good enough.

after them, depending on their time. If you have been in JP's lately, then you would know that the current name of the contest is The Big Luis Slapshot Plate. Big Luis completed the dish in 24 minutes and 26 seconds. His record is yet to be broken, and he still stands as the reigning king.

Another notable local competition is known as "The Squealer" and calls The Muddy River Smokehouse home. Located in downtown Portsmouth, The Muddy River Smokehouse is a favorite of many seacoast residents when it comes to good barbeque. "The Squealer" consists of 1 rack of St. Louis Pork Ribs, 1 pound of award winning pulled pork, half a pound of a hickory smoked chicken, 1 pint of mashed potatoes, 1 pint of BBQ baked beans, and 1 piece of cornbread; a lot of food warranting a prize of a twenty-five dollar gift card and a t-shirt.

The final well known food competition is called "The Farmer's Daughter" and is located at the Pizza Barn on Route 16 in Ossipee. This challenge consists of eating an entire large pizza loaded up with a generous helping of spicy hamburger, sautéed peppers and onions, pepperoni, and mushrooms. Once completed the winner receives a t-shirt announcing that they have "Devoured the Farmer's Daughter!"

So, are you somebody that enjoys eating until you can't eat anymore? Do you enjoy BBQ, burgers, and pizza? Freshman to senior, big to small, if you feel like you can tackle one of these monsters, and want to be recognized and profiled for your valiant efforts in an upcoming issue of Mouth of the River, then make sure to let me, Nate Hoff, know by the middle of November!

October 22, 2008

A CHANGING FACE TO DOWNTOWN



Daniel Day

It started with Burger King. It continued with the Licker Store. Then in 2008, it accelerated with Zyla's, The Movie Stop, Houghton's Ace Hardware, and Durham Copy. All these popular Durham businesses closed their doors, forcing many residents to take their business elsewhere.

"I think it's terrible," commented Durham resident, Pam Weeks, who was very affected by the recent loss of Houghton's Ace Hardware. She now has to travel to Newmarket or Lee to do her shopping. "I was in the middle of a campaign to not use my car as much."

Despite the loss of many downtown businesses, there may be hope on the horizon. According to Jim Campbell, Durham town planner, there are people interested in the location of the former Durham Copy and Houghton's Ace Hardware. Durham historically has not had a high vacancy rate, he added.

There are also plans to redevelop the Mill Plaza property. According to Campbell, the town went through a lengthy process to come up with design ideas. Recommendations were made, including the possibility of a new library, and now it's up to the owner of the property to make the final decision. According to the 2007 Annual Town Report, the committee recommended redeveloping the property into a village center with retail, office space and housing, and with plenty of access

and open space.

Warren Daniel, owner of the Bagelry likes the idea. "It's very positive for the downtown community. It helps property taxes. From a business perspective, there's the opportunity to impact the design to being more of a town center," he said.

People shouldn't expect any changes too soon. Campbell said the project probably won't start for a couple years. Once the owner finally determines the fate of the property, the town will have to approve of the plans.

In the meantime, students continue to enjoy the current downtown Durham. Oyster River senior Thomas Forbes described Store 24 and Durham Market Place, known as "The DUMP," as a gathering place.

Oyster River High School senior Pat Moynihan also enjoys downtown Durham. "It's a pretty cool place to be," he said.

However, Forbes expressed his disappointment with the closure of Zyla's. "It was a good store, cheap stuff," he said.

Despite the closure of those businesses, downtown Durham continues to attract business, and patrons continue to enjoy it. "It has a really nice feel to it," commented Rachel Umburger, a graduate student at the university.

Campbell stated that Durham is very attractive. However, Campbell would like to see more focus on the community, rather than just college students. "I like pizza and subs myself, but it would be nice to have some other choices, as well," he said while discussing dining options. "[Durham] could use a better mix of businesses downtown."



Remember this? There used to be a Burger King where the Bagelry is today. (Photo courtesy UNH Yearbook)



Downtown today.

Now

&

Then



Downtown Durham in the late 1970's. Notice the Care Pharmacy where Hair Excitement is today. (Photo taken from a UNH Yearbook!)

MR. EVANS ON LIFE AFTER
OYSTER RIVER...



Bridget Burns

Upon entering Pentucket Regional High School, I was immediately overwhelmed with green and white. I looked to both my left and right, with absolutely no clue of how to get to the main office. I must have had an expression of bewilderment, because a friendly soccer player asked me where I needed to go. She proceeded to escort me to the office. The secretary at the front desk asked, "We're you involved in the food fight?" I quickly shook my head no, and explained that all I wanted was to talk to Mr. Evans. I took a seat in the lobby. Students wandered in and out, many bursting with enthusiasm about the lunchtime fiasco. Athletes wanted to know if practices were cancelled due to misbehavior. By the time I sat down with Mr. Evans, school had been dismissed and kids filtered out for the day. His office is still blue and white. The sports teams, the books, the cards, and my personal favorite, the baseball signed by Ron

“I really miss the
faculty and kids.”
-Dave Evans

Paul. The office itself is set off from the main office; it borders the library and a classroom. His son, Tyler, was dropped off around half past three to spend extra time with his Dad. Evans was thrilled. "I am close to home, close to my kids. The best part of this job is right now- we're a young administration, it's a blank template, we have the chance to turn it around. It's nice to have people I work with have the same vision." What does he miss about Oyster River? "The best part of Oyster River was definitely the kids, and the staff. I thought it would be an easier transition than it has been. I really miss the faculty and kids. But it was the right decision for my family." Sgt. Levesque offers some insight "He really thought highly of the students of this school." While the transition has been tough, there are some nice benefits.



"It's more of a typical high school. Philosophies are different. We get a lot of the same results; there are a lot of positives being home. But there's Oyster River home too." Evans speaks highly of his colleagues, the other Vice Principal and Principal - "It's a true team effort, Mr. Thorton and Mr. Seymour make my job very enjoyable. He has nothing but praise for the faculty of ORHS. "I miss standing with the same four teachers shooting the bull. Its different here- at Oyster River I always felt like I had an open invitation." Sgt. Levesque fondly remembers the morning social club "I really miss talking to Evans in the mornings- he was one of my best friends, still is, I just don't get to see him as often. He was a really great guy and he really thought highly of the students." Mr. McCann gives some insight on stepping into the role as vice principal. "In some ways it's difficult because he was so well liked and people want you to be just like him- than can be tough." But Mr. McCann also makes light of the situation- "I think a lot of students miss him, people come in looking for tootsie rolls and I don't have any." Although he is gone, Mr. Evans will continue to influence the Oyster River community. Senior Courtney Dennis says "Mr. Evans is such a great guy. He taught me a lot about how to be a better person. I miss him so much." Evans promised he'd see the class of 2009 out. "I'll be at your graduation, I'll see you guys then."

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October 22, 2008

STAFF OF THE ISSUE: MRS. RICHARDSON



Matt Degrace

Mrs. Richardson is the recipient of the Faculty of the issue award. She has received this award due to her undying patience in the face of impatient students and for her kindly greetings and demeanor. She is also being rewarded this for her fairness and unbiased nature with students." I love Mrs. Richardson" says Bridget Burns "She's awesome". Even most of the staff is in agreement "I think she is awesome and a super duper recipient of the award" said Mrs. Wotton. "I can't think of anyone who deserves it more. She's an awesome lady and I'm not being the least bit joking either."

What is your position here?
Attendance secretary.

How do you feel about getting this award?
I feel great. I'm honored, I'm excited to be getting this, it feels great.

Why do you think you received this award?
I honestly don't know why I'm getting this award, I'm honored though I don't know who'd nominate me.

Who do you think was your biggest competition?
Mr. McCann, mostly because he is standing right next to me though.

What do you think would be a fitting reward for this honor?
A big trophy and a day off, with pay.

If you could be any super Hero who would it be?
I would be Batgirl! Because then I would be able to drive the Bat mobile.

Who do you want to thank for receiving this award?
I would like to thank all the people who were responsible for me receiving this award, thank you.



HE IS NOT JUST A BOY SCOUT ANYMORE

By Jordan Caldon

When it comes to after school circular activities students dedicate a lot of their time and effort towards getting the most out of the activities and making them the best they can be. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are group of men or women working together to help not only themselves but also the community. Both of these activities can be joined at any age and include community service, selling pop corn or cookies, understanding, trust and leadership skills. Both of these organizations can take you far in life and teach you lessons that can not always be taught in schools. The dedication and effort both of these groups take is far from math homework, it takes patients and concentration of the mind. These are some of the reasons why Ben Doller has become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. Now that he is at his highest rank, he has decided to give something back.

Every Eagle Scout is required to do a community service project and put in one hundred hours of un-paid service. This particular Eagle Scout put in over one hundred hours of dedication and hard work. Doller started his project in 2007 and has taken the image of "school bench" to a whole new level. Doller built school recess benches for the Mast Way School in Lee and literally built and designed them from the ground up. With the help of an architect Doller designed the benches that were meant for teachers and parents to be able to sit down and still be able to watch the kids from any angle. Doller came up with his idea, wrote every-thing out, drafted his design and presented it to the Eagle board for ap-proval. Once it was approved, he went right to work. The requirements for the project also stated that all of the materials used had to be donated or money had to be donated to purchase them. Doller wasted no time and started going around to companies explaining his plan and asking for help with the materials. He was able to receive donations that were up to \$300 in some cases and companies donated lumber and other materials to Doller's project. Most of the companies that donated were local, small companies that wanted to help out Doller as well as the community.

Doller started construction as soon as he could. He started to size the materials and calculated how much everything should be in length and width, as well as how much he needed for each bench. "Things do not always go as planned; you have to be prepared for that." Doller said, as he reflected on mistakes that were made during construction. "If you cut the wrong length or even go off by an inch that is material that was wasted and that is also less that you have." Making dead lines and his organization skills were tested during the construction of the benches. "I learned that juggling things is difficult." Doller stated "Doing this plus homework and college prep was hard. I do feel really good about doing this, it is fun to give something back. I went to school there and I like that I am doing something that will last and I can look back on." This very proud young man and member of Boy Scout troop 459 in Lee NH has learned about responsibility and improved his leadership skills during this project. He has created not only a bench but a work of art that everyone can enjoy. A place to sit and read a book, eat lunch, watch your kids play or simply sit and enjoy the outdoors, Doller has created this great seat for everyone in the Lee and surrounding town communities. The final work day was Sunday the 21st. The benches will then be transported to Mast Way School for the community to see for the first time. The work does not end there for Doller however; he still needs to wrap up his project. Everyday Doller had to keep a journal expressing how he was a leader during that day and why. Also how he used his time and he also has to talk about his time management skills. Doller chuckles and says "When you start a project this big, if you don't know time management skills in the beginning, you will by the end."

"Things do not always go as planned; you have to be prepared for that."
- Ben Doller



Matt Degrace

CURBING THE MUNCHIES IN DURHAM

It has happened to all of us at one time or another, you're in downtown Durham late at night and hunger hits you like a brick wall but you're wallet's running a little light. Your eyes wander down Main Street looking for something to solve that craving that you just can't shake, but where to go?

The old standard for hot food after ten pm is the famous Durham House of Pizza (better known as DHOP). Pizza sold by the slice is always filling especially considering the price is only a \$1.50 after eleven pm. "I think DHOP is lovely, I know someone who works there, so occasionally I get free food" says Dahlia Sawtelle. DHOP has been the ole' fateful for the night time munchies almost since its establishment as a restaurant. However there can be

challenges for those looking for a slice of pizza late at night, the lines. "It can get really busy at night" says employee Devyn Kirby. There have been about 40 people in the restaurant. There's sometimes a line out the door on the weekend and down the street". Another is the increase in the price from one dollar to a dollar fifty, this has had little effect on the amount of business it seems though. "I don't mind the price increase" says Kai Beaton. "I try to support the local economy". It seems though the fans and supporters of DHOP seem limitless. "I like DHOP, good food for cheap... you get more bang for your buck" says Zach Benuck.

In Durham there has been a new comer to the late night scene with the appearance of Irving's Blue Canoe. It offers a variety of drinks and snacks as well as a built in subway and attached Dunkin

Donuts. "I think Blue canoe is a phenomenal institution" says Alex Knoll a devoted blue canoe follower. "It offers quality products at reasonable prices; they have great coffee and slurpees as well". With the combination of Dunkin Donuts and a subway the selection has become limitless and people are responding. "I always get the same sub, and it's delicious!" says James Rochford. There are also the combo meals and value prices. Such as the deal made famous due to a commercial and song that can easily be construed as an innuendo, the "Five Dollar foot Long". The attached Dunkin Donuts offers year round comfort in warm weather and cold with Hot and Iced coffee available on the cheap. The attached Dunkin Donuts is also a participating location for the Free Iced Coffee Day where patrons receive a free small iced coffee for free on a certain date each year. Alex Knoll may say it best "It's my second home".

There is always the beautiful eye appealing store 24 filled with a large variety of drinks and snacks located conveniently in downtown Durham. The



appeal of store 24 is in part due to its store hours, twenty four hours a day as the name implies, or is it? "I went to store 24 this summer and I was wicked hungry and thirsty and there was a sign on the door that said store 24 closed, be back later. I was really freaked out" said Jaime Wilkinson. The store contains a wide variety of food including a number of microwavable food including White Castle Sliders and microwaveable burritos. "24 is great, I always stop and pick up a 99 cent Arizona Iced Tea" says Gabby Guerra. People have been going to Store 24 for years and there is no sign of it stopping.

Another choice that has been around for years but is not well known by the High School crowd, I'm talking about Kurt's Lunch Box. Its appeal is not due to its location and facilities, mostly because it is located in the back of C lot by the MUB, and is in fact a Lunch truck. It serves cheap food Thursdays thru Saturday night from around 11pm give or take 15 minutes for his arrival and closes at 2am per town ordinance. The food selection at Kurt's is nothing close to fancy, but greasy. The food truck primarily serves Fries with your choice of toppings from a long list. You can top your fries off with chili, nacho cheese, pizza sauce and mozzarella cheese, barbeque Chicken, gravy or any combination on the list. The prices are what bring in the crowd with large portions and basket of fries with topping starting at \$4.25. "I like giving a fair product at a reasonable price," said Kurt in an interview with The New Hampshire.

The choices for late night food can be inhibited by the weather or just lack of funds. But the variety of food available in downtown Durham is endless. But the choice is yours, how can you curb your munchies?

“You get more bang for your buck”
-- Zach Benuck



Must Haves in Durham After Dark

- A visit to Kurt’s lunchbox for fries with choice of toppings
- \$1.50 slices of pizza at Durham House of Pizza (DHOP)
- Banana bread and slurpee from Blue Canoe convenience store
- Microwaveable White castle Sliders or Burrito from Store 24 and a 99 cent Arizona Iced tea
- Coffee any style from Dunkin Donuts
- Five dollar footlong from Subway

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October 22, 2008

A LOOK BACK AT THE DARKEST OF KNIGHTS



Max Snelling

"Thoughts don't describe the feelings I have for this movie." Greg Davidson confessed as he told this reporter about his obsession with the indescribable movie that is The Dark Knight, the oh-so-epic sequel to 2005's also epic Batman Begins. "The movie was all I talked about before the movie came out," Davidson declares, "And when it came out, I went 4 times."

Davidson is not alone. With over 22.37 million tickets sold so far, according to wikipedia.org, The Dark Knight is drawing in everybody, and then drawing them back again. Of the 11 people interviewed in this article, only three of them had not gone and seen The Dark Knight twice, and only one of the three had not seen the movie yet. "-Explicative- awesome" was Pat Hannigan's immediate response to simply hearing the words 'dark knight, "I just love that movie."

The Dark Knight has become an instant hit. It became the second movie in history to reach the \$500 million in gross domestic sales, according to Yahoo News, (the first movie being Titanic). The movie is becoming a force to be reckoned with, and has even drawn the question of whether a superhero movie can win an Oscar for best picture.

Still, though, some remain skeptical to its chances. "It can't win," says Kyle Milner, one of ORHS top movie scholars. "I loved the movie, I saw it four times, but after four times you can definitely see some flaws in the movie that will hurt it." Kyle points out that the movie had a weak script that was too full of action, "which is awesome for an action movie," but is not what the Academy looks for when it chooses a best picture. Still, Milner believes that The Dark Knight has a chance to sweep up quite a few awards in the Oscars, including Best Director for director Christopher Nolan, and Best Cinematography for cinematographer Wally Pfister.

Looking at it from an action movie standpoint it is hard to find a weak point in a movie welcomed so warmly by the public. Everyone, however, seems to agree that



Photo courtesy of <http://eliburford.com>



Photo courtesy of <http://electricityandlust.files.wordpress.com>

Rachel Dawes was the weakest link. In the original movie, Batman Begins, Batman's love interest, Rachel Dawes is played by the lovely Katie Holmes, but she turned down the chance to reprise her role in 2007 due to scheduling conflicts (wikipedia.org) so the role was picked up by Maggie Gyllenhaal, and while she is a fine actress, her looks are a little below those of Katie Holmes, which has disappointed some of the male fans of the film. "She's not pretty enough," says Kyle Milner.

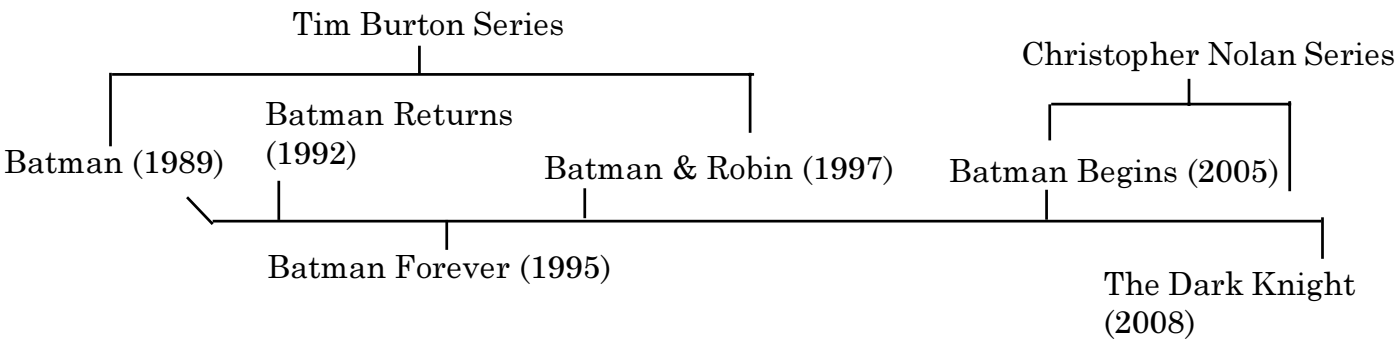
The other weakness pointed out by fans is the voice of Batman, which is rough, gravely and sounds like Batman is choking on something. "It was over done," says Senior Rob Kang, "They should have based the movie off the Joker, Batman is dumb." Others, though, stand up for Batman's strange voice, like Pat Hannigan, who claims "the voice had to be intimidating," so that Batman could scare the criminals of Gotham.

As I near the end of this article I must finally come to arguably the best part of the movie, the role of the Joker played by the late Heath Ledger, who died January 22nd, 2008 due to an accidental drug overdose (wikipedia.org). The Joker is portrayed by Ledger, and written by the Nolan brothers as a raving mad man with no reasons for the horrible crimes he commits. He does horrible things- like shoving a pencil into a man's cranium, and then makes you laugh at them. Ledger portrays the Joker with just the right amounts of evil and insanity, and those qualities help to mold his character into one of the most impressive acting performances in Ledger's career... And he played a gay cowboy, so that is saying something... Ledger's amazing take on the Joker character, which had already been undertaken by the acting great Jack Nicholson, has been met with such enthusiasm that he is seriously being considered for an Oscar. "Definitely deserves the Oscar," said Kyle Milner "The coolest part about the Joker is that Heath Ledger acted so differently from himself. If you see him in interviews and stuff he is completely different." "No doubt," said Stephen Wilson, "he deserves it." If Ledger does indeed get the Oscar, he will become the second posthumous Oscar, according to Kyle Milner, after Peter Finch won the award in 1976, for his role as Howard Beale in the Sidney Lumet movie Network.

Because of The Dark Knight's great reviews, and its possible success at the Oscars, Warner Brothers, the producers of The Dark Knight, have decided to re-release the film in January 2009, according to Wikipedia.org. This time period is thought of as the height of the Oscar voting season, so Warner Brothers hope that it will increase The Dark Knight's of winning as many Oscars as it can.

Overall The Dark Knight was an amazing movie. It stunned audiences world wide, and changed superhero movies forever. It was a wrecking ball at the box office, and is well on its way to being the second highest grossing movie of all-time. So, to all of you out there who have been living in a bubble for the last six months I say get out of your houses, get to a movie theater (or an illegal download site) and watch what is un-arguably the best superhero movie of all-time.

A HISTORY OF BATMAN MOVIES





Max Snelling

If you have befuddling questions about your personal life, then please write up the question, and hand it in to Max, or another MOR staffer. You will also be able to email me your questions soon, at MOR web page which can be reached through www.orcsd.org/orhs/. Please write in.
-Max

ASK MAX

Dan Olken: Dear Max, Where do babies come from?

MAX: Well Dan, when a man loves a woman very much they get together and call the Stork (which is a large white bird wearing a beret, as can be seen in the picture on the bottom) and they tell him they want a baby. The Stork then sends them a Common Baby Request Form that says what they want their baby to look like, and the man and women fill it out and return it to the Stork. Then the Stork heads to a large underground warehouse in Uzbekistan (because baby harvesting is legal there) and he chooses from a vast supply of babies sitting in tanks (kind of like the supermarket lobster tanks). The Stork takes the baby out of the tank with tongs, and sometimes (if you're lucky) the Stork will find that another baby is attached to the first baby's foot, so you'll get twins, then the baby(ies) is/are placed in a blue, green or pink blanket (depending on the gender) and the stork makes the blanket into a makeshift basket, and places the handle in his beak. The stork then flies to the man and women's house and drops the baby down through the chimney to the expecting parents, and voila, you have a baby.

Terry: What do you do if you really like this girl but she only smiles at you? I want to start a conversation, how do I do that?

Max: Well Terry, if that's your real name... I would stop being a pansy and walk up to the girl and start talking to her. Through the conversation you should be able to figure out if she's actually into you, or if she's giving you a sympathy-smile because you're really ugly. And if she does indeed find you ugly, then I would probably punch her in the face (I don't know why, but it seems like the right thing to do).

Jon Owens: If you were pregnant how would you tell your mother?

Max: Well Jon, first I must ask if you are pregnant? If so, congratulations! You are the first man ever to be impregnated. Who's the... father? Mother? It-ther...? On the question of what you would say to your mother, I would walk up to my mother and say "Mom I'm pregnant, I'm the first man every to be so. I don't know how it happened. How was your day?" then continue on to inquire into every little aspect of her day, hoping she forgets what you just told her.

Luke Sahagian: How many licks to the center of a tootsie pop?

Max: Luke, the world may never know.

Brian Kim: What's your favorite pick-up line?

Max: Brian, Brian Brian...I don't need pick up lines, my tantalizing look is enough to lure any female into talking to me...

Jon Owens: Do you have a map? Cause I'm lost in your eyes

Max: ... O.K... Ummm... Well Jon, I can understand why you would be lost, my eyes are quite dreamy, but other than that I'm not sure what you are asking.

Bridget Hart: Is it socially acceptable to be a senior and date an eighth grader?

Max: No.

Geppito: If Pinocchio said, "my nose is about to grow" what would happen?

Max: ...It would probably grow, duh. Haven't you watched the movie?



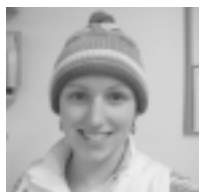
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Bus Driver Needed For Strafford County Head Start

Qualifications: -Must hold New Hampshire CDLor school bus certification
-Must be responsible person, with the skills and empathy to deal effectively with young children.
Part time position: approximately 20-25 hours per week, September thru May
Medical stipend and dental coverage
Send resume to: Strafford County Head Start, PO BOX 607, Farmington,

October 22, 2008

WANNA GET SPOOKED? OYSTER RIVER STUDENTS' STORIES OF ENCOUNTERS WITH THE SUPERNATURAL...



Aillinn Connors

Have you ever been alone and had something that seemed unexplainable or supernatural happened right behind your back? Were you scared to tell your friends because you thought that they wouldn't believe you? Well here's the good news: you're not alone anymore, because believe it or not, there are plenty of Oyster River students who have had some pretty bizarre encounters with unexplainable phenomenon.

"The house is almost 300 years old. There was a girl named Georgia in the house and she died of small pox. It was haunted by Georgia." Senior Daisy Chinburg recounts her experience with a ghost in her old house that the Chinburg family moved out of when she was

"One time I was staring at a fire and focusing really hard and the candle went out."
-- Travis Blumenthal



Oh no, it's Travis and Daisy!...Be afraid, be very,very afraid.

little. "Well it starts out awkwardly, but I was in the bathroom, and once I was done with my business and washing my hands I leave, and the shower turns on [behind me]." Chinburg proceeded to explain how when she went to turn of the shower there was no one there, and the shower shut off before she had drawn the curtain. Chinburg knew that she had been the only person in the bathroom at the time. "I was like WTF." As she is retelling the events of that day, Chinburg looks genuinely tweaked out.

Sophomore Ellyn Legard has her own possible supernatural encounter. There is one story of the "Lady in Grey who was supposedly one of Blackbeard's wives who left the island. There are lots of ghost stories on that island, but that's the most well known." Legard continues, "I went to Star Island this summer and [my family] has this tradition were we go to East Rock and sleep out there and watch the sun rise." Legard then proceeds to tell of one particular overnight stay at East Rock. There was a voice that we heard someone saying "he will come back he will come back he will come back...it was a high pitched voice." Legard is still unsure whether the story is real or was a well a hoax. Regardless, "it definitely freaked us out," she says.

Senior Travis Blumenthal even has an experience of using his own willpower to do something supernatural. "One time I was staring at a fire and focusing really hard and the candle went out. When it happened I was flippin' -explictave-. It sounds cool on paper, but it freaked me out!" Next thing we know, he'll be bending our yogurt spoons at lunch.

"I used to live in this really old house called Kent Cove Farm and [the owners] said that they had supernatural occurrences. One night I went to bed,

and I was sleeping underneath the sheets and they were tucked in and the sheets were on top and the pillows were all arranged [on the bed]," Says sophomore Georgia Borner. When she woke up the next morning however, Borner realized that all of the pillows were off of the bed, and were now sitting, "in an ordered pile" across the room.

When posed with the question of whether any of people have had a supernatural experience, OR students are coming out of the woodwork to share lots of crazy tales but the person with the most bizarre occurrences most frequently isn't a student, and they happen every day. For Susan Miale, "every day here at Oyster River is a supernatural experience."

There was a voice that we heard someone saying "he will come back he will come back he will come back...it was a high pitched voice."
-- Ellyn Legard

OR LOOKS SO COOL FOR SCHOOL

Like it or not, summer of 2008 has officially faded away into memories and photographs. With it go flip-flops, beach reads, driving with the breeze blowing through your hair and your summer tan. Cheer up though because, here at Oyster River hardcore winter lovers and avid skiers say, "BRING IT ON!"...After all, who couldn't help but agree once cute pairs of mittens start showing up on store shelves??

"It's straight from the eighties" senior Julie Peters says of the stand out-fabulous black bow in her hair. Her matching striped tights are right on the style target too. "I stole them from my sister...she wore them for Halloween a few years ago. Lately I've been playing around with wearing different types of tights." she says.

As for personal style, Oyster River tends to go for brands such as Birkenstocks and L.L. Bean, or prefer the styles of Hollister, American Eagle, Aeropostale and Pac-Sun. "I think that it's a really chill style here at Oyster River. People don't really judge you for what you wear," says Rhys Huntley, sophomore. For Huntley and most of the student body, style is a personal choice. Kelly Kirby agrees. "I wear what I feel comfortable in," she says.

Art-room resident Emma Hall, sophomore, gravitates to bohemian influences. "I don't really know how to describe it" Hall says of her eclectic chic, "...I like bright colors."

But in the midst of all of this fashiony-ness, lets not forget the guys, because they have statements to make too! "Guys style ranges from kind of laid back hippie to traditional prep" says senior David Mistretta, who is never sighted without his coffee mug and a pair of leather loafers. "It's always pretty clean cut."



The Kang kids have style! Above: Junior Marissa Kang rocks a cool cap
Below: Senior Rob Kang in a striped hoodie



Above: Chem notes may be dull, but the bag you carry them in doesn't have to be!

“ ...in the midst of all of this fashiony-ness, lets not forget about the guys, because they have statements to make too!”



Above: Senior Analise Stetner proves to us that Converse and denium were made for each other.



Students emphasize how non-judgmental they are about style and how it is a personal choice, but it seems ironic how they are far quicker to point out what styles they can't stand. "I don't like crocs." Says senior Bev Cole, "and I don't want to see anyone's underwear or buttcrack." Cole jokingly adds, "Basically, if you don't dress cool, I won't be your friend."

Senior Delaney Guerino agrees. "Two days ago ---'s brother was walking down the hallway and his pants fell down...we don't really want to see your butt."

The bottom line? Wear what you like, be comfortable and don't be afraid to make cool statements! Maybe a pair of jazzy socks with Birkenstocks is your thing or a set of Skullcandy headphones for your ipod. Your style should reflect your interests and tastes...its all about choices, so you wear the pants!

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Amaryth Gass

I have a confession. I have always held a prejudice against republicans. I was told to visit the closest McCain/Palin "Victory" Office which was located in the old Stratham Town Hall. . And I was as petrified as the Jonas Brothers in a strip club.

As I pulled up in my blue minivan, I felt pressured to take off the bumper sticker that said Another Family for Peace plastered on the back. Would they really slash my tires and shatter my front window just because I was a Democrat?

The "Victory" Office was basically a large empty room with only two volunteers in it. If people were so excited, where were they? There were tables equipped with phones so that crazed supporters could call me during dinner to pry me with questions about who I was voting for. The two people were eager and excited for my interview. Eric Murer was from the State Party. Originally from Hampton, he had been relocated to this district to help generate popularity. The other, Angelee Stamps was one of the McCain directors and started the presidential race supporting Romney.

Both shared ideas of support for limited government and more power for large corporations. This means forget about cheaper gas prices or better education systems. Murer felt very strongly against universal health care, while Stamps expressed a large concern for the "4,000 babies being killed a day due to abortion..."

Neither mentioned the 9 trillion dollar debt of the U.S. or the \$442 billion dollars put towards military spending each year... Wonder why?

The volunteers also agreed on the fact that Obama was a smart, intelligent person. Murer had seen Obama speak about at year ago. "He is a good speaker and knows how to address concerns...", he admitted.

When I questioned about Stamps' feeling with the current Bush administration, she smiled, blushed, and squirmed uncomfortably in her seat. "I worked very hard to get Bush elected, but I don't agree with his decisions..."

One of the most disappointing points of the interview was when we reached the topic of McCain's recent running mate pick. With 35 people a day asking for McCain and Palin signs, this choice was a source of excitement for the Republican Party. What I really should have asked was why everyone had so much faith in a person who didn't even know what the Bush Doctrine* was. Maybe the only beneficial aspect for Palin and her amazingly-stylish Tina Fey glasses joining the race was that the Saturday Night Live skit she played muse for had the highest viewer ratings since 2002. OH wait... There's another-Palin can see Russia from her house! Wow, I'm (not) jealous.

Unlike Noronha, I am pleased to say that I did agree with some of opposing side's comments. For example, Stamps talked about the importance of staying involved with our country's government. "The more informed you are, the better the government is run...and if you don't care, at least pay attention. Getting involved in general with a campaign is very important... it forces you to learn about many different types of people..."

As I was leaving, I mentioned that I needed a shirt to bring back as proof that I didn't just ditch school. Even after I offered to pay, they said they didn't have any. Instead they smashed on my head a repulsive Women for McCain hat-an honor only given to their "best volunteers". I was immediately brainstorming how I could destroy it in the most satisfying way.

Stamps ran to the back room to bring me back even more "goodies." Yay - more McCain crap. She said these had just come in and that everyone wants one. All this ended to being was a small circular sticker that said "McCain and Palin 08." I plan to put it on the inside of a urinal.

Other than the fact that I felt like I was being recruited for a cult, the whole experience was not as close to torture/dying as I expected. Yes, there will be more painful things I will experience in life (childbirth, getting my leg cut off), but all this trip ended up being was another example of how much I hate the color red and elephants. Fortunately Obama will take office January 11 and my next article will be about how the school's janitors are annoyed with having to remove all the McCain stickers on toilets.

*For all of you who want an IQ greater than Sarah Palin's, the Bush Doctrine is a title put on a series of foreign policies that George W. Bush created after September 11. Basically, it says that the U.S. can bully any country that might have given aid to any terrorist groups (justifying the invasion of Iraq).

BRAWL! - BEHIND ENEMY LINES

This is the first installment of a series of political showdowns between MOR resident Democrat Amaryth Gass and token Republican Michael Noronha. MOR in no way endorses the outrageous opinions expressed here.



Michael Noronha

I went to an Obama Rally.

Being Oyster River, this statement probably evokes no great emotion beyond a tinge of jealousy. In the off chance that you actually know me, don't panic, the world is not ending. I haven't been infected with Obama mania.

On September 12th, I ventured behind enemy lines, not just into Dover, which is impressive in its own right, but straight into the center of blue territory. Senator Barack Obama, the Democratic presidential candidate, held a rally at the McConnell Center to speak to undecided voters about middle class issues. Between 200 and 300 working class voters, as well as what seemed like every journalist in NH, packed into a converted basketball court to catch a glimpse of The One Himself.

The pre-show lacked momentum. Former Governor Jeanne Shaheen made a speech that made few connections to Obama, and can be summed up by her words, "Washington and John Sununu just don't get it." Then two Obama campaign staffers tried to get the crowd frenzied with a rousing cheer of, "Fired up, and ready to go!," complemented by 80's hits playing in the background. Finally, a local couple with their two adorable kids came onto stage to talk about their economic woes. I had to admit it was touching, at least until a journalist told me that an Obama staffer asked her the day before if she knew any single mothers making \$24,000-\$50,000 that would be willing to make a speech. So much for the audacity of authenticity.

But when the Meehan family finally broke the tension and introduced Senator Obama, the whole room erupted into a blinding array of camera flashes and ecstatic applause. Every head strained to catch a glimpse of this international phenomenon , who has more Google results than Reagan, Mohammed, and Walt Disney put together (no connections implied).

The speech did not complement Senator Obama's claim to be more in touch with middle class issues than Senator McCain. Mr. Obama partially blamed Dover's economic pain on the closure of the Cocheco Mills, which would have been legitimate 60 years ago. His idea of dealing with college costs is to give students \$4,000 a year in exchange for community service hours-enough to cover a meal plan. To his benefit, the Senator did make substantial comparisons of his healthcare and tax code policies to those of Mr. McCain. Some of his policies even resembled conservatism.

But now as I reflect from safety, there is nothing Obama can say or do that could swing me, or any other true conservatives his way. There's no change



A sign of the apocalypse?

coming to Washington, just a continuation of the bickering politics that the current Democratic congress with its 20% approval rate has pursued since 2006.

This shirt I'm wearing is hideous, and it cost \$10. The Obama logo is certainly no sunrise. It's a sunset, kind of like the solar eclipse in the movie "Pitch Black", right before millions of mindless, carnivorous creatures swarm out of the ground to infest the planet.

Okay, I'm going over the top. I can't compare Senator McCain with Vin Diesel. McCain is too masculine for that. But if this is the best that Mr. Obama can come up with, his words are exactly right, that "America's best days are ahead of it." And so they shall be, under the McCain Administration.

So much for the audacity of authenticity.

OLYMPIADA



Beijing Olympics Logo

Spain dominated the FIFA Euro Cup, Raphael Nadal ended Roger Federer's 5-year reign in center court at Wimbledon, Nicolas Sarkozy declined a meeting with the Dalai Lama, the Dark Knight movie broke the box office record with \$155.34 million during it's first weekend, and yet the major event of the summer was.....?

"What is the Olympics?" Exactly! The event that hijacked most of our media stations was the ever so popular Beijing Olympics. People like Michael Phelps became attractive, but mostly due to their hard earned medals. The Olympics gained their attractiveness from the idea that we all sit together and have a "peaceful" competition.

So while we all sat around and watched the Olympics (where girls could catch a glimpse of Michael Phelps' abs and swoon over the fact that even though he isn't a Brad Pitt, he is attractive; guys gawked at their plasma screen TV's when women in bikinis played in the doubles volleyball and the elders... well, they were astounded by the diversity that has come to the Olympic games), we missed out on the very important issue of human rights.

Peaceful isn't what I'd call the Olympic Games that were hosted in China. Peaceful shouldn't even come close to a country which chooses to lie and threaten its own citizens. The promises it made to the Olympic Committee were broken.

The Official Olympic "venue" choosing is done many years in advance. For China, it was in 2001. To be chosen as a venue, a country needs to submit an application, (similar to any senior who must submit a college application). China did so, and clearly stated that it would give journalists the freedom they needed to write the right stories, and that it would open a park free to protesters. This park guaranteed that people could come and protest without being threatened by the Chinese government (think Free Tibet Rallies).

Fast forward seven years. A woman was thrown into jail for asking to protest against the demolishment of her Beijing home for the construction of Olympic stadiums. Chinese police manhandled journalists during a Free Tibet rally, a girl sang at the opening ceremony of the Olympics. Except...wait...she was lip-synching (apparently, the real girl wasn't pretty enough). And of course, the 3 Chinese women gymnasts (Dong Fangxiao and Yang Yun, and He Kexin) were all allegedly underage. But China was quick to make some "official" documents proving that they were, of course, the legal age for Olympic competition (anything to get them some gold medals, right?). Then the Olympic committee rather speedily decided that there was no problem with the girls' "age".

"[For China], image is so important, more than truth and substance. It's amazing how critical it is for them to present a good image and not be concerned about reality," says Sociology teacher Pam Raiford. As preparation for the Olympics, "[the Chinese Government] relocated families and bulldozed their homes without paying them." The destruction was not only to homes, but also to families who had no monetary relief and no ability to start anew with a good home. They all went back to square one.

Raiford goes on to say, "It's atrocious that we have allowed China to host the Olympics. To allow them to treat people the way they do. China is vital to our international economy and we value money and profit over people's lives. We had the opportunity to hold China accountable." China, the country that owns \$350 billion dollars of the US national debt has created such uproar among people all over the world. There are no human rights in China. You're lucky to live. The issue with China is its government, its policies, and the way it unjustly treats its people. You wonder why so many Chinese immigrate to the US.

Lorraine Hu, a junior, went to the Olympic Games this summer because her mother worked for the American Citizen Services. She notes, "Now, the majority of the people living in China are doing a lot better and they're benefiting from most policies that the government puts in, but since it's a one ruling party government, there's a lot of corruption going on and the people have no way to control all the corruption."

August 18th, 2008, BBC news reported that out of the 77 applications submitted for protest in the designated parks to which China promised, 74 were withdrawn, two suspended, and one vetoed. ITV News reporter John Ray was arrested while covering a pro-Tibet protest near some Olympic venues. "I have been roughed up. They dragged me, pulled me and knocked me to the ground. Now they are filming me," Mr Ray told the UK's Guardian newspaper as he was driven away in the back of a police van.

Journalists also experienced website curbs. According to BBC news, they could not access the Amnesty

International website as it released a report on China's horrible human rights record. Some international news pages that had anything to do with Tibet were also blocked. Sites like the L.A. Times Olympic blog and Wikipedia were blocked to these journalists. Nothing came free.

International Olympic Committee spokeswoman Giselle Davies defended the IOC's decision let China host the Games. She said, "It has forced the debate about human rights in the country into the spotlight."

Even though such an issue is brought to light, is it a good idea to do so at the expense of other beings? China made its promises, just like every country really. But this was and is horrifying: the lack of care for the people of the country and the obvious human rights violations. It is important for us to start working against China, not with it.



Martha Kobus



Phelps after he won one of his *eight* gold medals ccourtesy of Google



Bird's nest olympic arena in Beijing courtesy of Google.



The Chinese Olympic Gymnasts courtesy of Google

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October 22, 2008

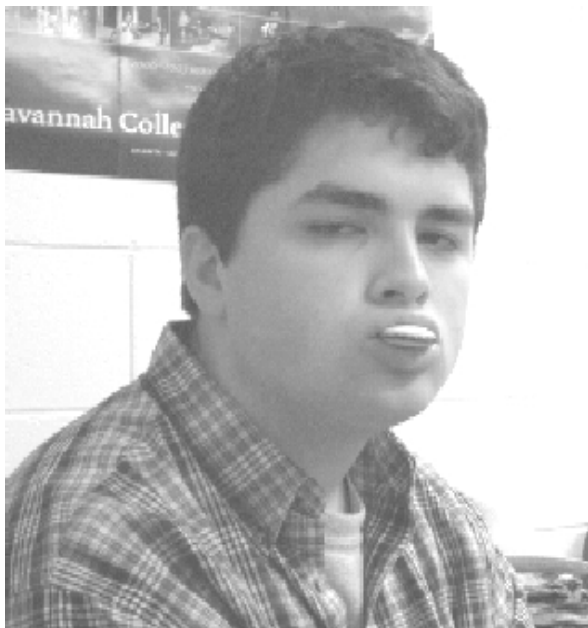
WHAT IS THE BEST HALLOWEEN COSTUME YOU'VE EVER WORN?

Joe Rankin: "I was a melt in your mouth candy in 3rd grade"



Mike Hoy: "I was a pumpkin."

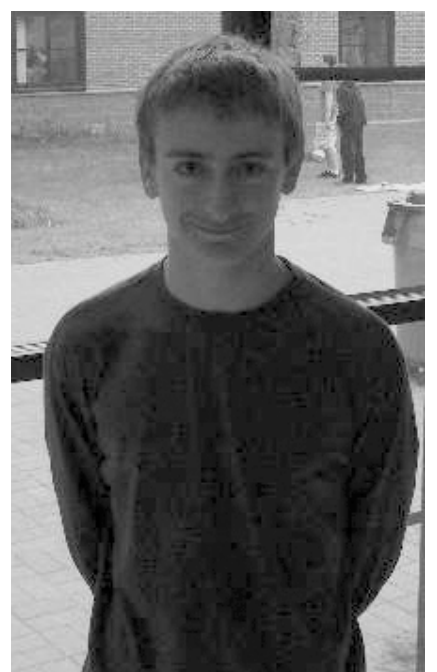
Sam Modigliani: "I was Cat-Woman, the Cat in the Hat, a Power Ranger, Simba, and a Munchkin."



Kyle Milner: "A Greek Orthodox priest"

Mrs. Caple: "I hate Halloween."

Peter Krumpe: "One year I went as a tax collector"



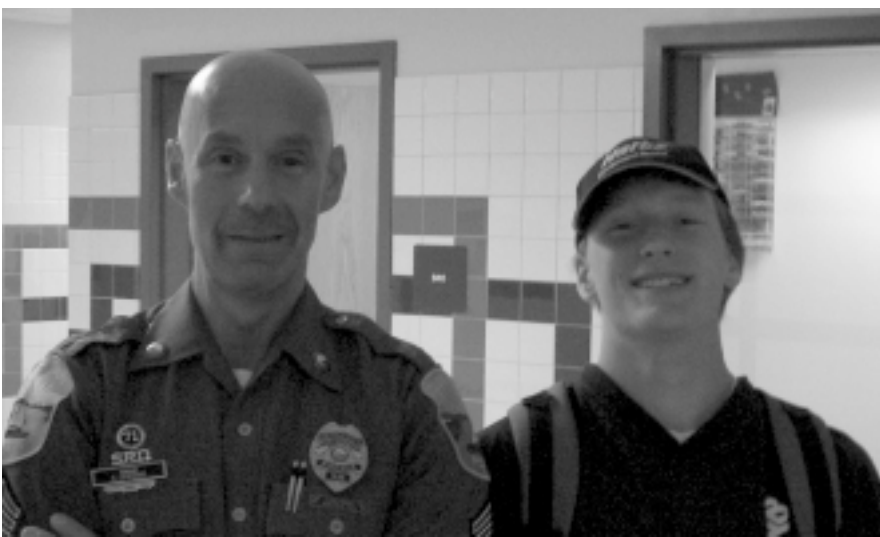
Tyler Smith: "I was a pencil."



Chance Dipold: "Not gonna lie, I was a witch."



Xander Bahls: "Ooooo...I had a full Obi-Wan-Kenobi outfit. I also dressed my dog up as a wizard one year."



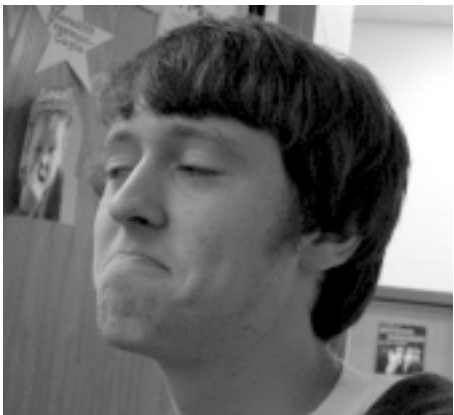
Sergeant Levesque: "I was a headless horseman."

Peter Constantino: "I dressed up like characters from Scream"



Emily Dube: "I was Napoleon Bonaparte one year."

Timmy Short: "I was Elmo. And another year I was a person being abducted by an alien."



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October 22, 2008

WHY MOHARIMET IS BETTER THAN MAST WAY



Ellen-Claire Slepian

choose Moharimet when there are so many other elementary schools? "All the teachers worked well together, the principal was supportive and the kids were adorable." Yep, that's right, the kids were adorable. What, you may ask, was Mrs. Miale's job exactly? She was God at Moharimet...would Mast Way have given her such a prestigious position? I. Think. Not.

2. **WE HAD THE BIG SLIDE:** I would say, "enough said here" as it kind of is obvious why this



Enjoying the epic big slide
at the Moharimet play-
ground.

makes us better, but I just want to say a few words about why the big slide is such a big deal. Not only was it a ginourmous slide, there were the steps you raced up, underneath the slide where we built forts and the countless games The Big Slide inspired. You could spend, before school recess, snack recess and lunch recess endlessly entertained by the slide. You could try and climb up the slide, you could slide down on your stomach (if the teacher didn't catch you), and you could go two at a time. The Big Slide transcends age groups, I still find it wildly entertaining to slide down and climb up. I'm sorry, you can't beat a school with a slide that big.

3. **Mr. Harrington:** This guy was the man, he knew every kid and adult that entered that building and he made you feel like he was your best friend. His ties alone set him apart from the rest; I actually do not think he ever wore the same tie twice in one year. Did Mast Way have a principal that would stand in the exit hallway with both hands out so he could High Five every kid that went by? Yeah, didn't think so.

4. **Fourth Grade Memories:** These things were great, at the end of your fourth grade year you sat down with Mr. Harrington and he interviewed you for 10 to 20 minutes about your elementary school experience. He tape recorded these and then gave them to you in your fourth grade graduation packet. (Also in the graduation packet was a picture of the fourth grade class that was signed by everyone) I know that some day when I find my fourth grade memories it will be so awesome to listen to...what other school thinks like that? NONE is the correct answer.

5. **The Reading Well:** In the middle of our library to the back...there was a, I guess your could call it a pit, with a sort of roof over it and you sat there with your class and read books. In a pit...it made reading so much cooler. In fact, now that I think about it it's probably why I love reading so much, gosh thanks so much Moharimet!
6. **Chicken Curry Lunch on Saint Patrick's Day:** Ok guys, how cool is that? On Saint Patrick's Day while the Mast Way kids were eating green beans and brownies with little shamrocks on them or what ever, we explored the diversity that is our world with a little Chicken Curry.
7. **Maple Sugaring/the Sugar Shack:** I don't care if you are completely convinced Mast Way is better then Moharimet, you have to admit this is cool. We had our own home made Maple Sugar Shack, and one of the fourth grade classes actually got to tap the trees and make the maple sugar. And then we had the pancake breakfast. That is pretty gosh darn cool.
8. **Monthly Parents Night Out:** 5 hours with your friends doing arts and crafts and watching movies and basically doing what ever you wanted. And it was only 5 dollars for an entire family of children. 1 a month. AND if you were in 3rd or 4th grade...you got to stay up until 11 o'clock, at night!
9. **The Large Slightly Awkward But Totally Cool Statue:** When you enter Moharimet from the front entrance the first thing you see right outside is this huge cement statue. The students of the school helped design that! And then we submitted our ideas to some architect guy and he combined ideas and made the coolest statue thing ever. AND around the base of that stature are imprints of animals. All the classes the year that was made got to choose an animal. My class chose the bear. The large cement thing is so, so cool.
10. **Chief Moharimets' Grave:** 'nuff said

So now that you all have read my clear list of reasons of why Moharimet is quiet clearly much, much better then Mast Way I hope you are realizing your mistake in disagreeing with me. Of course, for those of you who still insist on your very WRONG opinion of Mast Way being better, stay tuned for the next issue where a Mast Way graduate will be arguing the WRONG opinion that Mast Way is better.

"First of all Moharimet kids are just better." Good point Ben Rodgers. Moharimet is better than Mast Way.

That's it, the end. Now I know all of you Mast Wayers out there are outraged, but I'm sorry, Moharimet is without out a doubt superior to Mast Way. But since I am a kind and generous person, having come from Moharimet I have these qualities engrained in me, I will help you poor people understand this simple concept by giving you a very shortened list of the reasons why Moharimet RULES

1. **We Had Miale:** yes, it's true all you Mast Way kids...Mrs. Miale, the famous High School secretary we all love to hangout with and talk to when we are supposed to be in class, originated from Moharimet. Why did she



Senior Julie Peters
showing her distaste
for Mast Way



LETTERISH FROM THE EDITORs



Martha Kobus
and Ellen-Claire
Slepian

Ellen-Claire: What's the most ridiculous polish word? What does it mean?
Martha: Stokrotka: Daisy Totolotek: Lottery
Ellen-Claire: What's the strangest thing you have ever put in a microwave?
Martha: There's a flower pot in my microwave with fake yellow flowers, it is glass and it has stones...we don't use our microwave.
Ellen-Claire: What's your favorite my little pony?
Martha: I don't know what that is!
Ellen-Claire: How is that possible?
Martha: I am very um, um, ehhhh...no comment.
Ellen-Claire: Favorite Disney princess?
Martha: Nala, from the Lion King, because she's daring, and bossy. And cute...
Ellen-Claire: (I would just like to add that I let Martha use Nala as a Disney Princess cause I was cutting her some slack, other wise, the answer would have been none.)
Ellen-Claire: What is the one thing you would do in school if everyone could forget about it the next day?
Martha: There's so much! If I could...I think the best thing would be blasting some good 'ole Beatles

over the intercom and then proceed to paint the walls different colors and screw some disco balls to the ceilings and just go all out funky...But then I think the only people that would need to forget that day would be the teachers in the math department. They don't seem like the kind of folks who would find that very amusing. And Mrs. Rogers. She'd just yell at me and give me that stare. She'd probably say I'm being "fresh." Haha
Ellen-Claire: How much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a wood chuck could chuck wood?
Martha: Eh...I don't support woodchucks thanks.
Ellen-Claire: When did you last drink Fanta?
Martha: Wow....April? My mom bought some and I drank some. It's weird though. It was totally better many years ago when I was a wee tikette.
Ellen-Claire: Can you lick your nose with your tongue?
Martha: Hell yes! Watch!
Martha: Have you ever broken a chair at school?
Ellen-Claire:Ahhh, yes. More than once. The most memorable time though was fourth grade in the reading corner when I was sitting in one of those old rickety wooden chairs and I plopped myself down quiet forcefully and it just like collapsed. Not a good time for me.
Martha:I have. In Monsieur's class this year. His face didn't express happiness.
Martha: I'm hungry, are you?
Ellen-Claire: Nope not really I had 44 oz. of diet coke (1.29 at the Blue Canoe down town) and I am eating your Garlic and Herb Pita chips, which are delicious.
Martha: Do you like the American spelling or British spelling of words?
Ellen-Claire: BRITISH! It's so much more fun to say and then you have to say it in a British accent and stuff and, yeah, its just fun. Ask Mr. Brewer, I

bet he has ten times more fun saying things then we do.
Martha: Have you ever licked a 9 volt battery?
Ellen-Claire: Um no, who would do that? Are you serious right now? Did you do that?
Martha:...Maybe
Martha: Describe yourself in one word?
Ellen-Claire: Ridiculous? I don't knowwww, that's hard.
Martha:Pathetic
Martha: Who or what sleeps with you?
Ellen-Claire: I sleep with about a gazillion pillows and my stuffed French dog FiFi la Femme...she used to be white but now she is a beautiful shade of gray. And she's not a real dog by the way, I meant like a stuffed animal...yeah quite lovely.
Martha: Do you sleep with your closet doors open or closed?
Ellen-Claire: Closed, obviously. Who knows what could creep out of there. Seriously it is so weird to wake up and look over and there's this gaping hole in your wall. Ick.
Martha: At a movie theatre, which armrest is yours?
Ellen-Claire: Both, I'm that obnoxious person who uses both cup holders and then pretends not to notice the dirty looks I get.
Martha: Do you zip then button, or button then zip?
Ellen-Claire: I zip then button, I have had some bad experiences involving the button then zip, you can never get the zipper right to the top of the zip place and then it unzips during the day and NO ONE TELLS YOU and then you get home and all you can wonder is, how long has this been going on?

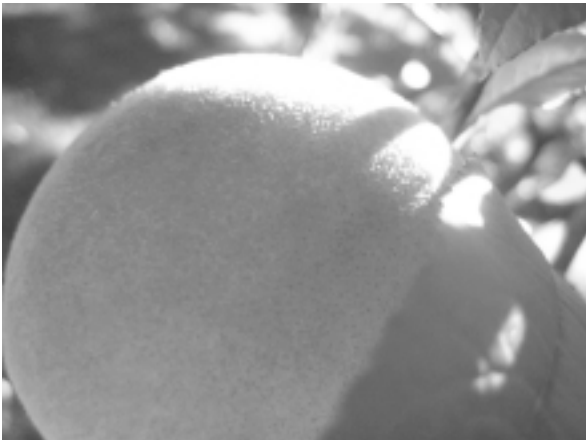
LOVE AND PEACH



Julie Peters

My summer monotony was broken one day when my mom lost her mind again. She walked through the door on a Saturday afternoon with a box of peaches in her hand; so excited she was practically disintegrating. I laughed at her enthusiasm and politely declined her offer of a peach-based lunch.
For dinner that night, though, she insisted that I have one of her delicacies. I came out from my hole to find a small bowl with some bright orange fruit-like slices. I hesitantly picked one out, sniffed it, and put it in my mouth. I chewed, and suddenly my life changed forever. An orange haze clouded my eyes and the only thoughts I have had since are related to peaches. I think I had six peaches that night.
Here's how this all happened: my mom was going through a pick-your-own phase last October and stumbled across this small place in

Farmington called Butternut Farm. She picked some of the biggest and juiciest apples I have ever come across (seriously, one was almost as big as my head), but I really dislike all apples, no matter how huge, juicy, fresh, and sweet, so I didn't care that much. In any case, we forgot about the place until this July when the peach incident happened.



A Beautiful Peach

I know what you're thinking: "peaches? What am I talking about??" But I'm serious. I'm not a huge peach fan in general, but these are practically god-like; the perfect fruit ever. A few weeks ago, though, I mistakenly had a peach from the grocery store, as it was mixed precariously with the blessed crop of divine peaches. The devil-peach was mealy, dry, and too hard in some places, too soft in others. I had two bites and had to throw it out. Vile.
So why is there such a difference between these

two peaches? They're the same fruit, both of the same genetic family, genus, and species, but one is so amazing it should potentially be illegal; the other so terrible it should definitely be illegal.
Many grocery stores claim to be using more local suppliers to stimulate local economy and provide fresher and better options for consumers. On a recent visit to Durham Marketplace I saw two types of peaches. One variety was very small and was labeled as from "USA." Most of those were bruised and did not look very good. The other variety was referred to as "southern peaches" and was from North Carolina. Those were a bit larger, but had distinct brown spots on them. They were not even in the same league as the Butternut Farm peaches.
The trend of local organic produce has become more and more popular in recent years. Shipping food across the country can drive up the prices as fuel costs climb, which is a big concern among people trying to tighten their budgets as the economy falls. Local produce, especially when bought directly from the farm where it was grown, is fresher, approximately the same price, better for the local small business, and it's almost guaranteed to taste better.
Not only that, but if you choose to pick your own, you get exercise, a fun day with family

Article continued on page 21

October 22, 2008

"MUSIC MAKES THE PEOPLE COME TOGETHER" -MADONNA



Martha Kobus

I want to walk through the halls one day and see absolutely no one with music, *wearing* music, *listening* to music, and *playing* music. I want to see the school *music free*. You know what that would be? A DISASTER! And it's not going to happen. Nope. Especially since I would never leave my beautiful black and red U2 iPod that's host to all of my magnificent music at home. I wouldn't. Nor would many of the people I know.

That's because music is special. It drives us all. Music is the gamekeeper of our emotions. It's there for us when we don't have the physical person to chat up.

It's something that connects us. It's one of the various forms of art (something I believe isn't appreciated enough in this school).

Pam Raiford's Sociology class was what really opened my eyes to our school 'society'. And instead of thinking about the various reasons why the cores are separated, I realized that music is another important social...connection. Music, that's my element. It's everyone's element and an element of our society. It in all probability has everything to do with our ability to make it through the school day and our ability to make friends and keep the ones we have.

Alex Herlihy, a social studies teacher, says, "I believe that more than anything, music is the international language; I see this when the Russians come here and hear stories about it when we go there; it is the great ice breaker." Herlihy attended the PIT concert in the library last year, where students from our school and the Russians played music for each other. He views it as a great success to breaching the culture gap. PIT holds regular coffee houses in the school, and even though the audience isn't gigantic, it's enough. They 'flock' together and listen as Marisa Kang strums away at her guitar, or as Noah Brickner-Wood plays his African drums. And even when they're not at a coffee house, they're still playing music. Everyone's playing music. The senior guitar seems to be in constant use. Music is even in the classrooms. Teachers like Lou Mroz (Martha and the Vandellas, Simon & Garfunkel, and the Beach Boys) and Martin Brewer (The Beatles and John Denver) often incorporate music into their curriculum.

I have music for one sole purpose: to feel good, happy, survive the day and live 'till tomorrow (well those are the basics really). Not everyone feels that way though, "Music today is an accessory (iPod etc.) rather than front and central in the heart of youth culture,"

says Brewer. While I agree for the most part (we have Apple to thank for the accessories), I think it is important to mention that Brewer grew up in the U.K., a country that seems to have a far better understanding of good music and good radio (and well, I'm jealous really). It is important that although folks walk around with the iPods and the headphones etc., the music isn't only for show (Yea, I'm known for never being without my iPod, but I don't really consider it an accessory. It's merged with my body. It is me). Though, I'm not sure I could say that for the whole 100% of the music listeners. Sometimes I do get the "I'm cool 'cause I have the new Apple iPod touch" vibe.

"I received a couple of overseas calls from Floyd friends of mine. Music is the ultimate form of communication and bonding," Brewer notes about last September's passing of Pink Floyd's Rick Wright. I feel old actually. I feel old and I feel like my teachers are old (no offense) and I feel that in due time when all the great revolutionary musicians pass away, I'll be left in a world of chaos, full of Rap, Hip-hop and country (cringes). Save me please.

I don't want to end with an apocalyptical feeling (even though the dark cloud is nearing in our future). I wish I could be hopeful. I really do. As I was writing that, I realized that that's what music is. It is all of our emotions, hopes, dreams, and goals piled up into one big ball of fluff. Fluff is detail. So what if we don't need music to live. We need it to survive. It's our survival fluff. Appreciate it.



Senior Thomas Forbes strumming away at the Senior guitar



Junior Marisa Kang playing Mr. Herlihy's guitar

Attention ORHS Staff! PIT desperately needs an advisor for this year!!!! Please contact a MOR staff member or Marisa Kang if you have any questions.

Some good music that you have probably never heard of...

Fleet Foxes
I'm from Barcelona
The Fratellis
Kings of Leon
Noah & the Whale
Last of the Shadow Puppets

GAPPIN' IT



Amaryth Gass

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA- The eighteen-year-old girl's tan arms point a dusty white finger across a list of words. The chalkboard is old, but serves its purpose teaching the eager faces out behind each desk. Out the windows, the South African landscape is dusty and dry. The teen's mind drifts and her eyes watch the dust blow about with the wind. She stops for a second and thinks of her friends back in the U.S. While they are buried in college textbooks, she's helping children in South African learn English. While they when straight to college or university, she's changing the lives of these children.

Taking a year in between high school and college is becoming more popular for American teenagers. It provides a year of reflection and relaxation for adolescents who have spend the last 13 years stuck in high school. The idea of

a "gap year" is originally from Europe during the 1960s. These international ambassadors were used as a tool to create global peace and understanding. With the educational system in American becoming more and more rigorous, students feel like taking this year off is an adequate break to change, grow, and mature as a person. And it accomplishes just that.

Oyster River High School 2008 graduate Taylor Ackerman, is currently deferring from college. She has made the amazing choice of participating in the NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) organization. It is focused on teaching leadership and outdoor skills in various environments all across the world. Ackerman is planning on taking a semester course where she will participate in a wide range of activities, included rafting, mountaineering, and canoeing.

Ackerman is very ready for this major transition out into the wilderness. "I've been in school for 12 years, plus pre-school and I need to get out of the typical academic setting!"

After her year break, she would like to focus on environmental studies in college. By doing a NOLS course, Ackerman will get first hand knowledge surviving and living in the topic that she wishes to study for the following four years.

University of New Hampshire grad-student Sonia Dee feels similar about choosing to take a year off. She participated in a gap year between under and graduate school by traveling to Africa and working with the ONE campaign providing humanitarian aid.

"Other people should have taken a gap year...you go off to a different country and it broadens your knowledge for the world...teaches you how to be perceptive of others' beliefs and cultures."

A gap year not only gives a student better understanding of the world, but also teaches them how to deal with problems and interact with different types of people. Dee therefore suggests that this year of "self exploration" should be away from your family.



Senior Lauren Banker and Chilean Gap Year Participant Margarita Introza-Ruiz

"A gap year should be taken individually or with a program internationally. If you go with your family, you're not getting the full freedom...or the experience that you deserve after all those years in high school."

An Oyster River parent, and UNH graduate Jon Collins has similar feelings to Dee. After graduating from college, Collins took a year off to work and relax from school. "I'm really glad I took a year off...it was a time when I could figure out what I was going to do."

Not all are supportive of this option. As Collins mentions, "you have to have the right plan, motivation, and plan of what you are going to do...some kids could just get lost and lose their focus."

Gap years can make college students lose sight of their long-term goals, but they can also help organize and prioritize decisions. Rather than spending the first two years at a 40,000-tuition college with your major "undecided," it can be more beneficial to take a year off, organize your future education, and examine your goals. This can not only save money, but also be more productive. A student, who is more focused and passionate in one area, is more motivated in the long run. The fact of the matter is that some high school students need that year-long break to reconsider the next years of their life.

After much thought, I have pretty much opted not to take a year off between high school and college. Although I might be seen as being hypocritical, taking a gap year is an excellent option that all students should consider-while more should choose.

Gap Year Programs to Check Out
National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)-
www.nols.nols
Outward Bound-
www.outwardbound.org
AmeriCorps-
www.americorps.org
City Year-
www.cityyear.org
Rotary International Exchange Program-
www.rotary.org
The American Field Service (AFS)-
www.afs.org

Peaches continued from page 19

and/or friends, and a healthy way to be more healthy!

At Durham Marketplace, there is a list that is supposed to inform customers about where their fruits and vegetables are coming from. The list is infinitely helpful, as almost every type of produce is listed as from "USA" and nothing more specific than that. Our cabbage could be (and many times is) coming all the way from California just so we can consume the sub-par produce as a way to fool ourselves into thinking we're eating healthy.

In some Superman infested world, it might be possible for your grocery store fruit to be as fresh as the stuff you get from the farm, but, alas, that is not this world. You literally cannot get any fresher than picking the darn fruit yourself.



A Peach Tree

I admit - it's difficult to find fresh peaches in New Hampshire in mid-January, but there are alternatives to grocery stores. Freeze your local produce. Its flavor will almost completely remain if you follow the correct instructions which can be found on the Butternut Farm website and even months after freezing, it will still be better than anything you'll find at the supermar-ket.

Peach season ended recently, to my dismay, so I will have to live on the 15 peaches that we froze and the 20 or so that we still have from the final peach excursion a few days ago until next summer. It's a sad fact, but there will be other fruit. Maybe apples will strike my fancy this fall.



A wagon at Butternut Farm

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Ellen-Claire Slepian

WHAT’S WITH ALL THE LABELS?

“So how many boyfriends have you guys each had?” The freshman girls looked at each other confused and giggled asking “What's like, a real boyfriend?” I thought for a few seconds before I answered, "I guess a guy you actually go places with, and talk to on the phone." This set them off giggling again before one girl regained control of herself and said, "I guess, like, one boyfriend each then, cause we're losers."

Unfortunately this conversation actually happened. Starting on the first day of my senior year, I have found myself more than terrified of

the freshman girls. They all seem so much... older. The problem with this that made it into my personal issue and not just a passing thought, is the fact that this isn't the first time I have noticed it. I have babysit for a girl before who is now in fifth grade and, starting in third grade, I saw her receive make-up kits for her birthday and iPods for Christmas. Around last year she told me about boys who liked her and guys her friends were "going out" with. As I watch the freshman girls sashay around Oyster River dressed more like they are auditioning for a suburban version of Gossip Girl than school, I can't help but be creeped out. My question is this, are these girls really growing up too fast? Or are they just trying to project some sort of image in their first year at the High School? My opinion? They are growing up too fast.

As I was making these assumptions I realized that that was just what these were, assumptions. I mean, if I know one thing, it's to not judge a book by its cover. Who am I to judge? I don't even know these girls! Sure they were swearing loudly, putting on enough eye makeup to imitate a raccoon, and wearing so many labels I felt like I just entered my own personal brochure, but I don't know what they do for fun! They could be playing board games!

I decided to get more informed so I could be right about my opinion that these girls are dressing and acting too old for their age, so I went and found myself some freshman girls to interview. I decided that the best way to get a look into their minds would be to just ask them simple questions about themselves, their interests, and what they do. Alex Grogan, Megan Greenleaf and Kate Chalmers seem like perfectly normal girls, not the specific ones that scared the Old Navy jeans off my butt, but a generalization of the freshman class females. As I asked them questions about themselves though, I was saddened by their answers. When asked what stores at the mall they like to go to they answered the typical, "Hollister, um, American Eagle....haha Charlotte Russe, ew just kidding!" (I would like to mention at this time that the very shorts I was wearing were from Charlotte Russe). But what surprised me even more about these girls was that all of them have been on diets before with one of them on a diet currently. These girls were in no way overweight. The thought that at 14 these girls were concerned enough with their weight to go on diets made *me* feel self conscious about my lack of dieting.

To see if I was just a strange duck, who dressed in a "uniform" of jeans and a t-shirt, and preferred staying home watching a movie and eating than going to the mall, I decided to interview the most normal senior I know, Dahlia Sawtelle. Much to my relief Dahlia enjoys the same activities as me on a Friday night, watching a movie and eating with friends, and is a fervent shopper at Kohl's. When I asked if she had been on a diet, the look she gave me was confused and weirded out, "Nope, never." When I asked her the big question...how many boyfriends have you had? She thought a bit and then said three including her current boyfriend. And when you were single, did you feel like a loser? She looked incredulous as she answered "Um, no way, that's stupid." Yeah, that's what I thought.

Seniors Rachel Taylor and Kara Henn had about the same answers as Dahlia to my many questions. Kara has had 3 boyfriends, Rachel 2, and they both agreed that not having a boyfriend or not having lots of boyfriends did not make you a loser. They were proud shoppers of T.J. MAXX, the Kittery Outlets, Charlotte Russe and Kohl's. BUT they had both been on diets. "I went on the bagel diet once..." Rachel said thoughtfully. "My mom thought I was eating too many bagels so she wouldn't let me eat them for a couple days."

Kara nodded, "Yeah, my mom and I went on this diet for a week once, but then we really wanted chocolate cake, so that ended." All the senior girls I interviewed seemed so much more OK with themselves than the freshman girls did. None of them were concerned about labels, status or dieting. I'll admit, I was getting absolutely no where with my thesis, but then Kara said the something that made it all make sense. "Freshman year I cared about who I hung out with, and how I looked. Then I realized no one likes you when you do that. It's lame, and no one cares about where you get your clothes, if they do, they need to get a life." Rachel Taylor affirmed this comment with a "true that."

After I actually did the actual “research” for this article I officially changed my opinion. I think that a lot of the freshman girls aren't comfortable with themselves just yet, so they feel the need to project an image to make a point in a new school. So are the guys doing the same? Surprisingly no. I interviewed senior, junior, sophomore, freshman guys and I got the same answers from everyone. They like watching T.V., playing video games (alone or with friends), they hate the mall, they like playing sports, and overall

they don't care about having a girlfriend. I guess that guys in general are just more ok with themselves from the beginning, whereas from what I got, it takes girls four years to stop trying to act older and the way they think they should. So what comes after four years? After your senior year when you are totally ok with just wearing sweatpants and a sweatshirt to school? Well ladies, according to my sister, a Junior at UNH, freshman year of college you start caring all over again. So enjoy your senior year while you can, wear sweatpants and sweatshirts, don't feel bad about not having labels. And freshman, it is ok to have a bad hair day.



Senior Marie Collins looks fabulous in her casual yet comfortable style



Freshman Naomi Schmidt shows off her American Eagle sweatshirt

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FRESHMAN DIS-ORIENTATION



Julie Peters

Freshmen orientation this year was a flop. As a mentor, I felt the freshmen were inattentive, over-excited, uninterested, and completely apathetic about preparing for the first day of the rest of their lives.

Freshman orientation is supposed to be a day set aside for ninth graders to become more comfortable with their environment and feel as though they really know the school or at least can get to their classes successfully. It is supposed to unite the freshmen with the upper-classmen to create a loose bond that will hopefully turn into friendship.

The itinerary for orientation this year included the arrival, a brief introduction, breaking into groups, getting-to-know-you games, tours, a free pizza lunch provided by the Durham Police Department, talking about the policies of the school, and a final closing. The tours consisted of the mentors showing the freshmen around the school and going through each schedule of their assigned kids so they were comfortable getting around the school.

One of my freshmen mentees, though, got more from the activities than I thought, making me feel less like a failed mentor. "It was good to find where my locker was," said Ryan Garner of the positive aspects of the orientation. In fact, many freshmen enjoyed that part of their day but did not find anything else to reply optimistically to.

Freshman Ian Szilagyi didn't find the orientation helpful at all, however. "I wanted to know where my classes are and I didn't. The mentors should take it more seriously." Another freshman Eddie Irvin agreed with Szilagyi. "It was not helpful. I found my locker."

The director of the freshman mentor and orientation program is Sara Wotton, ORHS assistant principal. She believes that orientation could be more successful and the main problem is lack of concern from most people.

"I know it's not working," said Wotton. "The freshmen aren't interested any year."

My group was no different or better than the rest. We all mutually elected not to do the games, as the freshmen already knew each other and more or less refused to participate in the name games that we were meant to do. I proceeded on to the tours, just so I knew we could fit it all in.

When I went through their schedules with my freshmen, however, they didn't want to see their classrooms. They didn't care where the

rooms were; they figured they would just be able to find them on the first day - no problem.

Listening to their relentless pleas to just leave and find their classrooms on their own (we all knew they were just going to find their friends and sit with them), I couldn't help but feel extremely confused at their lackadaisical attitude.

I remembered three years and a few months ago, I was readying myself for the inevitable first day of freshman year. I was nervous about finding my classrooms, dodging the seniors, failing classes, doing homework, keeping and making friends, being late to class, finding a bathroom (which resulted in a terribly embarrassing story about me walking to a boys bathroom on the first day; yes, it happened), the grade scale, and the list goes on. Yet the class of 2012 cared about discussing the summer gossip,



Mentor Dahlia Sawtelle, second from left, and three of her freshmen mentees happily show off their continued friendship, an atypical relationship between the mentors and their freshmen.

flirting with their classmates, and ignoring the seniors that were not only trying to help them, but be their friend as well.

I decided that we should take a break from tours and talk about the school policies (absences, bells, tardiness, dress code, the important stuff) and we got through about half of the procedure on absences when we were interrupted by some fellow freshmen. This started a shouting match between them and my mentees and was followed by a chorus of loudly yelled, "poop." Oh, the maturity.

When I finally let my freshmen go, I realized that I was one of the last mentors to do such, as about 90% of the freshmen and the mentors were already outside awaiting the ever-popular free pizza lunch.

Dahlia Sawtelle, a senior who volunteered to be a freshman mentor, had a very different experience than I did. "Orientation was smooth. I showed all of them all of their classes. They liked it. They all loved me to pieces!" she laughed. Sawtelle noted confidently that this group was very; very atypical of what happened that day.

Taking these obstacles into consideration, Sara Wotton will be making severe changes to the program next year. Instead of having a volunteer mentor program, she's hoping to get teachers to

refer students who really, really want to do it. "We need people who won't flake."

Part of the program this year are the checkup lunches in which freshmen meet up with their mentors in the multi-purpose room and eat lunch and provided snacks. The idea is good in theory, but the freshmen don't show up at all. It takes practically physical force to get them to come. "There will be no fight for the lunches. It's not for free food. The freshmen don't come; it's not a battle I want to fight," Wotton said emphatically.

She also is trying to acknowledge the comments from freshmen and mentors alike that the orientation itself is too long. Unfortunately, she is fighting that from both sides. She said colleagues think it would be more effective if it was in fact longer which opposes the thoughts of the student participants. "It's bull," she added with a chuckle.

The freshman mentor program last year was a bit more complicated than it appears on the surface. A group of incoming upperclassmen signed up. We went through a few days of getting-to-know-you days and then we worked on problem solving challenges including activities during after-school sessions and during a field trip to the Browne Center. These activities were to provide us with training on how to be a better mentor to the freshmen. "I like the training," said Wotton.

"We'll continue it in the future but it will not be so extensive."

Wotton also recognized that some kids need more assistance than others and that the mentor program in the future will include a way for the mentors to be able to distinguish these kids from the others who are more comfortable with entering such an unfamiliar environment.

"Some kids need someone to checkup on them. The mentors will find the kids and direct them. We need a program like that."

Despite the problems with the current orientation situation, it will continue. It's a good program that would be very beneficial to freshmen and new students if only they would shut their mouths long enough to realize that they are unprepared for high school and that they could get something out of it if they just put even 3% of interest in it.

Do you have something to say? Do you want the world to know how you feel about something? Do you agree or disagree with something we've written in this issue? IF SO...Submit a LETTER TO THE EDITOR(S). Give any letters to Mrs. Kucera or any member of MOR.

October 22, 2008

WE ARE NOT A CULT! An Opinion Piece



"Well do you think we're a cult?" I ask hopefully.
"Absolutely," responded Senior (and former runner) Emily Hobson disappointingly.

Marie Collins After asking around 50 people their opinion on my beloved Cross Country team and our rumored "cultish-ness" the overwhelming response was not very surprising. "How could you not think it's a cult?" Senior Max Snelling asked me.

Max should probably talk to Jaime Cummings (of Class X). I was personally more pleased with her view on the situation. "I don't really think it's a cult. I think you guys are all just really close...and you run a lot." Good observation Jaime. We do in fact run...quite a lot.

We practice every day, rain or shine. Ever since freshman year, my falls have been dedicated to cross country. We spend the majority of our free time together, encouraging each other through extreme physical and mental pain. We don't really have a choice but to be as close as we are. But a cult we are not.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines a cult as: A religion generally considered to be extremist or false, with its followers often living in an unconventional manner under the guidance of an authoritarian, charismatic leader. Let's review. First a religion...running is (last I checked) most certainly not a religion. The extreme part I can't argue with, running every day does seem pretty extreme to most people. But false, well that just doesn't



make sense. Maybe you could say that our team is false, but running as much as we do doesn't really give us time to put out an image we aren't. We don't live unconventionally, unless you consider running an "unconventional" life style. They always say that one of the most important factors of most cults is its leaders. For those of you that don't know, our coaches are Carol and Greg Gephart, who have been coaching cross country at ORHS for the last 18 years. I don't think I would label either of them as "Authoritarian" leaders.

Though we do love new members (like most cults) there is no abduction or brain washing involved in our team. "I haven't been initiated to the x-c cult," Our newest member, Senior Alex Knoll, complained. That's because there is no initiation. I must admit that some of the "traditions" last years boy's team tried to create had a very "cultish" ring to them. Ovulation, frumping (question mark), chanting on their runs, and in general scary behavior was greatly

encouraged by the "ring leader" Paul Igoe, who graduated last year. "The team seems a lot less cultish this year," agreed Seniors Eryn True and Devyn Kirby. Thanks ladies.

"Cross Country is my family, I love everyone on the team so much," gushed junior Kylee Drugan-Eppich. "It's not a cult; we all just actually like each other." She laughed.

"I don't really know why people think we're a cult. Everyone seems to think I'm

the ring leader but I don't really even know what that means," senior runner Ricky Hoyt complained as I talked to a few senior boys about their thoughts on Cross Country.

Among the group was Brian Kim. After suggesting that we get shirts inscribed with "Satan gives me Speed" he got thoughtful. "Don't you guys like sacrifice children and stuff?" he asked.

No Brian...we do not



True love at Mt. Washington: 2008

INJURY OF THE MONTH



Senior Ben Rollins

Marie Collins

What's wrong

with you?

Well I have a deep tissue bruise in my thigh

How did it happen?

I got kneed in a soccer game

How long are you out for?

Probably like a week to 2 weeks

What's next?

I'm doing physical therapy right now

How much did/does it hurt?

It hurt a lot at the time but it's about a 5 out of 10 right now

Did you cry?

No I didn't

How has the injury affected your love life?

I get a lot of attention because of it...the ladies love it.



Senior Brian Gitschier

What's wrong with you?

I broke my fibula down by the ankle

How did it happen?

At my hockey game a kid hit me and I fell on it

How long are you out for?

6 weeks

What's next?

Wearing this (points to cast). I can already put some weight on it.

How much does it hurt?

Right now it doesn't hurt at all...at the time it didn't hurt too much. I didn't know it was broken 'till I got to the hospital

Did you cry?

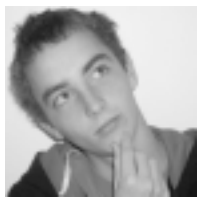
Not when it happened

How has the injury affected your love life?

It hasn't really. I can't drive anymore...that sucks



PUTTING THE OR BACK IN SPORTS!



Luke Sahagian



Hannah Allen

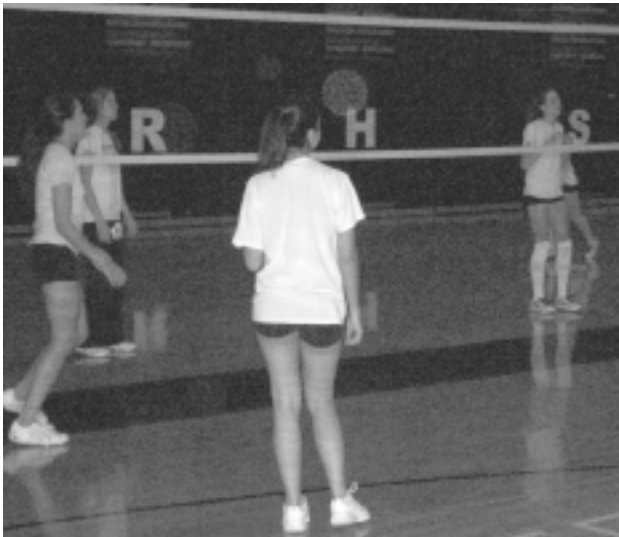


Marie Collins

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Record: 9-3-0

Volleyball has a long standing rate of success and this year's team is no exception. "I have really high hopes for our team this year," explains Bridget Hart, a senior on the girls' varsity volleyball team. Hart is excited to see what this season will bring, "The team has lots of potential, and we work really well together and have good court chemistry!" She encourages people to come watch the team, "We're really enthusiastic as a team, but it always helps to have fans!" The girls volley ball team is (record). "Even though we aren't the varsity team, we still have a lot of fun together,"



GOLF

Record: 14-6-1

Yes...that's correct Oyster River. Golf IS a sport. No, don't worry, I was surprised too. In fact, our school houses quite a fine team. Though golf is usually an individual sport, in High School the schools are scored as teams. Here's how it works. The top eight players play "varsity" (leaving about seven on our junior varsity team). Everyone plays the same, but they only use the scores from the varsity players to determine the winners of matches. The varsity team this year includes Stephen Rhode, Emily Rogers, Jaime Wilkinson, and Captain Jean-Francois Benoit. "I think we should make it to states this year, we have a lot of potential," said Senior Ian Young.



BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Record: 4-10-0

"We work really hard," Zach Wasserman a junior says. "Like Jon Owens said, 'we're stiff!'" The boys' team has been lacking fans for awhile, and is disappointed in the fan turnout. The boys' varsity team is 4 and 10 "Volleyball is really cool, and we're really good this year!" Wasserman explains. Students are encouraged to go to games to cheer them on. "It's annoying that nobody is interested in boys' volleyball, especially since we're pretty good." The team is lead by seniors Aaron Moss, Jon Owens and Joe Rankin. DJ Sparks, a freshman on the boys JV volleyball team is optimistic about their season. "We're all still learning the game," Sparks explains, "but I think we can be a pretty good team by the end of the season." DJ Sparks and Zach Ahlgrim are the three captains leading the team this year. "We're not unbelievable, but we're better then I thought we'd be this year," Sparks explains.



FIELD HOCKEY

Record: 8-4-1

"Field hockey is usually overlooked at our school," says Emma Smith, a junior on the girls' field hockey team. "We started out the season losing to the two time defending state champs, but we beat Hollis who knocked us out of the playoffs last year." The girls on the team are a little disappointed with the numbers that came out for field hockey this year, "We don't have enough to make two teams, which makes it hard cause a lot of us have to play two games in a day," says Smith. "We're all really close, and it's a fun group of girls to spend so much time with."

October 22, 2008

PUTTING THE OR BACK IN SPORTS CONT.



Luke Sahagian



Hannah Allen



Marie Collins

BOYS SOCCER

Record: 6-3-3

"We're starting to pick it up now," explained Senior Zach Benuck, the teams starting goalie. "We're starting to play to our potential." Though the team lost several starting seniors, including Matt Campbell and Dragos Maftai, they have several strong returning players this year including Junior Donavan Kelley. The team has several returning seniors, including captains Ben Rollins, Graham Phelps and Tommy Lynch.

The Junior Varsity Team, coached by Mr. Cangello, has also done well. "We've got a lot of talent, and when we put it together we win...big" said Sophomore Alex Hennesy. The boy's next game is home on Friday vs. Pembroke. Go Fight Win!



GIRLS SOCCER

Record: 6-5-1

Most of you know the story of our girls soccer team. Last year's Class I champs, they all know they have big shoes to fill. So far this season they feel that they have lived up to the high expectations the school has placed on them. Captains Amaryth Gass, Bev Cole, and Jilliane Friel have led the team to 6 wins, and are hopeful in their chances at continuing this trend for the rest of the season. The J.V and Reserve teams this year were combined. Captains Sarah Carey and Michelle Mason have led their team to (whatever their record at the time is). Sophomore Helen Segil seemed hopeful about the team's possibility. "So far we have had a really good season." The girl's next game is away on Friday at Pembroke. Good Luck Ladies!

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Ranked 3rd for Class I

Finishing second in the Bobcat invitational, the Girls' Cross Country Team will make for an exciting season this year. With six returning varsity runners, including the Slavin sisters (sophomore Marina and senior Eileen), and several new sets of legs including freshman Kristen Laaman, the team has lots of potential. "This year is already so much fun. We are going to go far!" said senior, and captain, Zoey Frolking. On the 25th they will be attending the Class I Invitational Meet which will determine their success in these last few meets. Come out and support both teams at Class I invitational on the 25th to see our OR runners in action.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

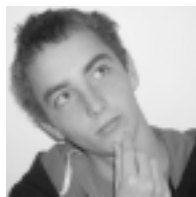
Ranked 3rd for Class I

The Cross Country team often does not get much attention from the school (only having one home meet), but this year might be different. For those who don't know how Cross Country is scored, each varsity team has 7 runners. The top 5 runners' are scored from their overall place in the race (1st = 1 point, 2nd = 2 points etc. etc.). These numbers are added up and the team with the lowest score is the wins. The top three OR runners this year are senior Ricky Hoyt, freshman Jack Collopy, and sophomore Gubby Noronha. Senior Mike Noronha, a captain of the team, said; "Prospects this year look better than I've ever seen. We have a strong team and we have a young team. We have a definite chance at winning class I and going to the New England Championships."





THE FUTURE OF OR
ATHLETICS



Luke Sahagian



Hannah Allen



Marie Collins

BOYS BASKETBALL

"We're better than hockey," says Owen Gheling a senior basketball player. "We have nine returning seniors which is a ton." The boys' basketball team had an undefeated regular season last year, but lost in the quarter finals. "It sucked being kicked out of the playoffs last year, so hopefully our frustration will help us go even further this year," Gheling explains. The team fought so hard to get to the playoffs, winning all of their regular season games. Unfortunately Pelham, the underdogs came out on top in the quarter finals, kicking the Oyster River boys out of the playoffs. The boys' basketball program consists of a Varsity, Junior Varsity and Reserve team; all boys who are interested are encouraged to go to tryouts.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Oyster River has always had a strong basketball team filled with girls who love the game. "It's a fun sport, and it's nice to have fun with your friends while getting a workout," says Bekah Schuman a junior. "Spags are always good bonding time for the team." There are five returning seniors to the girls' team this year which makes them hopfull for a good season. Schuman is excited for the upcoming season and encourages girls to try out, "All girls who like basketball should try out, it's so fun and our program is awesome!"



BOYS HOCKEY

ATTENTION UNDERCLASSMEN!!! If you enjoy the following: Skating, Ice, Cold temperatures, early mornings, lots of padding, LOTS of contact, handling sticks, or helmets, than hockey is for you. This winter's Boys ice hockey team promises to be very competitive. If you are unaware of it, Oyster River usually manages to put together a more than decent team, and usually ends up having quite the season. Returning Senior Ben Rollins seemed pretty confident about this year's potential. "It's gonna be great this year," he said. Returning talent includes Seniors David Wilson, Chris Butterfield and Ben Rollins; and Juniors Jaime Wilkinson, Connor Clark, Stephen Rhode, and Sean Leahy.



All Images Courtesy of Google Images

SWIMMING

The Oyster River Swimming & Diving Team has always been very strong and has many returning swimmers this winter. "Last year we won States, so hopefully we'll have momentum from that to help us win again this year," says Danny Duvall a junior on the swim team. "We're a strong team, and have a lot of people coming back from last year." The swim team consists of boys and girl from different grades, and anyone is welcome to join. "You don't have to be a superstar swimmer to be on swim team," Duvall explains, "it's a sport that a lot of people compete in for themselves. There is also a Diving Team at the high school, they travel and practice with the swim team. Jack Lewis is a strong returning sophomore diver, "Diving is really fun, even people who aren't really that great at diving should try it, it's fun once you learn how to do cool things," he explains.

GIRLS HOCKEY

It's Official...Oyster River High School now has a hockey team for all of you ladies out there interested in playing. And they are looking for as many new members as they can get this year. "We have a lot of fun, our spags are the greatest," exclaimed senior Emily Allen. "We're gonna have a young team this year," said Allen, referring to their two returning top players, who also happen to be sophomores, Meredith Gitscheir and Jenny MacArthur. The team is looking for experienced players, but they are also interested in members who are new to the sport. Everyone is encouraged to give it a try. "We're going to be amazing!" hoped Allen.

INDOOR TRACK

Despite what many of you seem to think, the Track team is very different from Cross Country. There are many different events and the scoring is more complex. Unlike most sports there is no Varsity and Junior Varsity distinction between runners at practice or meets. Running events are done in heats. The heat you are in is determined by your seeded time. A Varsity letter is awarded to those who qualify for class I or score in two meets. Track is also a good way to keep in shape during the winter. "It's a good workout...you actually have to try and put in hard work" said Jon Owens, one of last years captains, "Expect to have outrageous fun."



SKI TEAM

The Ski Team at our school is a privilege not every school gets to experience. The team practices at Gunstock after school during the week. They race slalom and giant slalom courses at various ski resorts around New England. "If you enjoy skiing on a team, and if you are a passionate skier and want to ski after and during school without missing weekend opportunities, ski team is the place for you." said returning senior Nate Hoff.



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October 22, 2008

AFTER 24 YEARS OF COACHING A “KICK IN THE TEETH”?



Hannah Allen

"The Board is not at liberty to discuss personnel issues. In fact, we cannot confirm or deny statements regarding Mr. Maynard's future employment." JoAnn Portalupi, a member of the Oyster River School Board, said in an e-mail responding to questions about Don Maynard's position as Athletic Director at Oyster River High School.

Don Maynard was informed by the School Board that he would not be allowed one more year as head coach of the Oyster River Boys' Basketball Team in late June. Maynard was also told that after the 2008-2009 school year, his contract as athletic director would not be renewed. Maynard was given no legitimate explanation as to why his contract wasn't going to be renewed, and he was left confused and angry. Maynard losing his position at Oyster River after being such a big part of the school has created a lot of controversy. Students, faculty and other district members have been working together to support Maynard. Petitions have been passed around and faculty members at the high school are wearing little blue pins in support of Maynard.

Portalupi continues in her e-mail by saying, "The board has listened carefully to the personal stories and convictions of those who have written or spoken to us and we most certainly appreciate the genuine feelings that have been expressed." The board isn't budging at all in disclosing details of the situation. According to Portalupi, it's a matter of personnel issues, which by law makes the issue confidential.

Don had asked the School Board for just one more year as head coach of the Boys' Varsity Basketball team. He had the support of Laura Rogers, the principal at Oyster River and Howard Colter, the Superintendent. When Maynard went to the Board to request another year of coaching, they wouldn't talk to him. The Superintendent later informed him that the Board wanted him to make a public speech to district members. "Initially I thought it was silly. I didn't feel comfortable having to do that," Maynard explains. After a week of thinking about it Maynard decided to make the speech. On June 24th Colter sent him an e-mail congratulating him and telling him to enjoy his last year coaching.

Maynard was scheduled to go to team camp with the basketball team in Maine on June 27th. He was disappointed when he received another e-mail the night before he left, informing him the Board was reconsidering their decision and wanted him to attend a meeting with the Board and Superintendent on Monday the 30th. Maynard thought members of the School Board and Superintendent would be attending and was surprised when Colter was the only one there. "I thought, well this is good. It will be a short meeting," Maynard said. The meeting was short, but good probably isn't the best word to describe how Maynard felt when he left. "He told me that the Board decided they didn't want me coaching another year," Maynard said. "I thought to myself that the decent thing would be to let me coach one more year." Maynard was clearly disappointed in what Colter had told him, but that wasn't even the bad news. "After he told me that he said 'and they want you to know that you won't be hired back after this year as Athletic Director.'" The School Board said that they weren't "firing him" they were just non-renewing his contract.

Maynard left the meeting, expecting a letter to come in the mail a few days later from the School Board telling him in writing that he would not be hired back after this school year. "That Thursday I was heading out, and sure enough the letter was in the mail box. The letter was like three sentences, it could have been four, but it felt like three," Maynard said, sort of jokingly. "The first sentence told me I wasn't going to be coaching; the second said my contract as Athletic Director wasn't going to be resigned after this year. The third, and this was a kick in the teeth, thanked me for my twenty-four years of coaching at Oyster River."

Students and faculty all over the Oyster River District are confused as to what is going on. "The School Board isn't going public," says Kellee Jackson a junior. "It makes it all harder to understand, and seems a lot more suspicious." Jackson has known Maynard her whole life, and he has been a big part of her and her siblings' athletic careers. "He does a good job organizing all the athletics; a lot of athletes wouldn't have the same opportunities without him." Jackson isn't the only student who has had Maynard impact her athletics, "I've done basketball camps with him since like 5th grade," Tommy Lynch explains. "It stinks that he can't coach me one more season, being my senior year and all."



"About a month ago I went to a PTO meeting to support him," explains Junior Tommy McDonnell. "A lot of people spoke, supporting Maynard. They looked like they were going to take everyone's thoughts into consideration, but nothing has changed since then." Maynard is thankful for the support being expressed, but he doesn't really believe that the support of everyone is going to change the Boards' mind. "I'm not optimistic," Maynard says. "I think that people think the situation will just go away, and everyone will forget about it."

Faculty members at the high school have been wearing little blue pins supporting Maynard. "I'm wearing my pin to make people aware of the situation," Imion Powell one of the Physical Education teachers says. "I still don't understand how and why they can do that, I can't wrap my head around it at all."

Maynard has made it one of his goals to make personal connections with as many people as he can, by coaching, supporting, and being a fan. Students say that Maynard was a huge part of bringing back school spirit to Oyster River. "There won't be as much Bobcat Pride," Lynch explains. "He basically developed Blue Crew and did a lot to make the number of fans at game increase."

The whole district is curious as to what he will be doing next year and his plans for the future. "I gotta do something," he explains. "I can't sit back and assume something is going to happen." Maynard hasn't done too much researching into what he will do next. He is prepared to relocate even though he doesn't want to. "I never thought I'd be looking for a job outside of OR, and I don't want to."

On October 15th a group of people desended upon a School Board meeting in the auditorium at the high school. According to Matt Pappas, one of the Social Studies teachers at ORHS, there were about 200 people who attended the meeting showing their support for Maynard. "Four years ago I didn't know we had an athletic director," Senior Jill Friel told the Board. "I thought I could be one for all I knew." Friel continued by telling the Board that to her, students are the most important, and that they needed to listen to what the students had to say.

"He dedicates himself to everything he does," said Bethany Sharbaugh another senior athlete who attended the meeting to show her support. "He's someone we need to keep around this school, and we'll really miss when he's gone." Sharbaugh was one of many students who wore a blue pin that said "Students Support Don Maynard".

Seniors Emily Allen and Daisy Chinburg went up to the podium to speak to the Board together. The two play field hockey and ice hockey together and appreciate how much Maynard has done to help the girls' hockey team. "He pulled hard for us to make girls' ice hockey a real varsity sport," Chinburg says. Allen also brought up how much Maynard helped the girls' hockey team. "He helps bring out the equipment before game," Allen explains. "It's not just a desk job, he doesn't just schedule games, he goes to them." Allen wrapped up her speech by saying, "He puts so much pride in our school. You can't take that away from us, and that is coming from the students."

"The reason why I regret not coaching anymore is because I didn't get the chance to work with Don," said English teacher Martin Brewer, one of the many faculty members who wears his blue pin every day to school. "If you cut the man in half, he is going to bleed blue and white."

"The School Board isn't going public," says Kellee Jackson a junior, "it makes it all harder to understand, and seems a lot more suspicious."

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT



Hannah Allen

Kevin O'Brien, the President of Class I Athletics was one of many supporters that attended the School Board meeting on October 15th. O'Brien works at Merrimack Valley High School, and took the hike to Oyster River High School to show the School Board and other district members that he was supporting Maynard.

Me: What exactly is your role for Class I Athletics? And at Merrimack Valley?

Kevin: I am the President of Class I Athletics. All the athletic directors get together and make the master schedule. If there are issues with transportation or between schools I help work out the problems. I work as a mediator. I am the Director of Athletics and Guidance. Basically it's the job that is responsible for all clubs, athletics and activities. I hand the games, fans and officials. It a 6 day a week job, 50-60 hours a week, I wanna say we work the most hours in the school. I don't want to offend anyone that thinks they work more hours, but I really wanna say we work the most.

Me: What do you think the role of an athletic director is?

Kevin: The role is a leadership position. Athletics is an extension of the school day. I get here at seven in the morning, and I stay till eight at night. Athletic directors have to deal with parents, media and scheduling games. When people go home after school, the games are just starting. We have to buy supplies, and I keep saying it, but scheduling games is a huge part. It's raining today and I just had to cancel field hockey, I mean it takes about an hour and a half just to cancel a game.

Me: How do you feel Don Maynard has done in fulfilling these roles?

Kevin: He's done a very nice job. He had to segue from teaching and coaching to directing. He's done a great job. He's a bright man that really cares about your school. If he has a question on how to do something he calls up a guy like me and asks for input.

Me: What was your initial reaction when you heard about Mr. Maynard's contract not being renewed?

Kevin: I was caught off guard. Stunned. Surprised isn't really the right word because that sounds like it was a good thing. I was just like, "Are you kidding me?" I mean, what did you think when you heard?

Me: I didn't believe it. It took a few days for me to actually believe it.

Kevin: Exactly. I was just stunned. I think I had the same response as everyone else.

Me: Were you intending on speaking? If not, why did you decide to?

Kevin: Oh yeah, that's why I went. I wasn't sure if I was even allowed to because I'm not in the district, and some schools don't allow people who don't live in the district to speak. But it was my intention to speak as the president.

Me: Was there anything you didn't get a chance to say that you want the public to hear?

Kevin: No I don't think so. Pretty much what I hope people already know, he's done a lot for Oyster River. I don't think I left out anything or need to change anything that I said.

Me: Do you have knowledge of this happening to any other ADs?

Kevin: Not off the top of my head. Over the years ADs have lost their jobs for various reasons. Each situation is unique and different. But I've never heard anything like this.

Me: What responses are you hearing from other people that you work with?

Kevin: It's kinda funny, not too many people really knew what was happening. The meeting was on channel nine, and today I was at a meeting with Don, and when I returned everyone was teasing me about being on TV. I am sure over there, there is a lot of stuff in the local paper, but not much here.

Me: What do you hope will happen?

Kevin: I hope that the School Board and him will be able to reconcile.

Me: What do you think will happen?

Kevin: I honestly don't know. I know what was presented last night, and I know what I want to happen. But I honestly don't know what will happen.

“I was just stunned. I think I had the same response as everyone else.”

“Everyone was teasing me about being on TV”

October 22, 2008

THE GYM IS THAT WAY!



Luke Sahagian

You might look around Oyster River and wonder where all these athletic individuals come from. Fear not for the answer is very close by. There are 6 gyms in the local area and you, the reader, will have the opportunity to learn about all of them. They all promote physical strength and health, but each one has a different feel and different things to offer.

For comparison purposes we will start with the ORHS gym. Our school gym does not have the best reputation. However it does have a few things to offer that other gyms do not. First, the price is right. Not only is our gym free, but we have a perfectly good PE staff that can help with an individualized training plan. Also no other gym allows for the opportunity to work out with peers guaranteed. The downsides however could drive some people away. Our gym is very small. According to Kai Beaton "In the world of gyms the school gym is like a pear and other gyms are like bigger pears that taste delicious." The total size is about 60x15' (a generous estimate).

"I would trade my first born son for a lifetime subscription to this gym"
-Jean Francoise Benoit

The commute to the gym is about the same as every school day, and we have a late buss for those who don't or can not drive. Free parking after school is another plus to our gym. Finally we have showers and lockers both in the gym and around the school.

Next stop Wildcat Fitness. For those lamenting the closing of Zyla's I am sorry for your loss. "Our goal is to be the neighborhood gym" Ashley Chamberlain (general manager at Wildcat Fitness) explained "we have personal trainers, cardio, strength, weekly walks and runs and we try and keep our prices low". The gym is available for use with a monthly rate of 15\$ per month for the basic pass. For a full membership (including the option to bring friends for free) the cost is 25\$ per month. There are showers and bathrooms as well as towels available for use. The machines are color coded to show which muscles they work. This makes designing a workout easier. Also there are several staff members at anytime walking around to help with any training needs. The size of the gym is about the total size of the multi purpose room at our school. Another advantage to this gym is its location. Being in the Durham area, it is close to all the local businesses as well as the residents of Durham, Lee, and Madbury. Don't forget the parking is free. For those worried about the commute it could be a wise choice.

Great Bay Gym is much farther away than the High School or Wildcat (depending on where you live). Great Bay does have a lot to offer. One of the biggest Gyms around it offers

just about everything a person could want from a gym. In addition to machines and free weights Great Bay has a full size basketball court available for use. "Its split into five or six different area's each with its own feel" Jean-François explained "It makes it very easy to train everyday." The monthly fee is 30 dollars plus any usage of the tennis or racquetball courts and many other programs they offer including personal trainer sessions. They do have some people to help with training for free but they offer very basic tips to people doing an exercise wrong or about to hurt themselves. What is your overall thoughts on the gym I asked "I would trade my first born son for a lifetime subscription to this gym" Jean-François replied.

Planet Fitness is a Dover gym (for those in Madbury or close to Dover). Its slogan is "The Judgment Free Zone". Their subscription fee differs from a basic rate of 99\$ a year (the cheapest so far), a similarly cheap 10 dollars a month (for no preset amount of months) or 19.99 a month for the Black Card deal. The Black Card Deal offers more exclusive services and benefits than a regular membership. They have TV's and all the machines and of course mirrors for dead lifting. There are group workout sessions where everyone in the gym does a similar workout. It is a little bit on the far side depending on where one lives, and the size is not quite Great Bay or UNH. However, they do have gyms all around the US so if a person was to move and wanted to stay with the same gym style and atmosphere this gym has the resources available to do so.

The UNH gym has only one word to describe it, massive! They have several full size basketball courts as well as squash and even a small climbing wall. Access to the outdoor and indoor pools is available. The cost however is slightly more. For a community member a full year pass costs 315\$ (26.25\$ per month if it was a monthly subscription). A subscription to the indoor pool is 150\$ per year (12.5\$ per month if it was a monthly subscription). The atmosphere is a little different from that of the other gyms however. UNH gym obviously has a lot of college students using the facilities and running the facilities. Parking can be an issue and also expensive for those who don't happen to live on campus. Also because of the crowd the opportunity for one on one training is very rare. The UNH facilities do offer a lot all in one centralized location, but if the parking or price are not for you there are still more options

The Works has a disadvantage in location. Located in Somersworth they are the farthest gym away from Durham. They do offer a pool included with their subscription "It has a water slide" Robert Perkins exclaimed. They offer all the standard weight room equipment as well as classes in Tai Chi, Aerobics, Strength, Aquatics, Spinning, and Yoga. They also have many sports teams (which do require an entry fee) and options including Tennis, Softball, Basketball (men and women), Wally ball, Dodgeball, Volleyball and Racquetball. Most of these teams seem to be oriented to be for a company or specific group. However they do not require a company based team. They do offer TV's in the cardio rooms and mirrors with the dead weights. It may not be the biggest gym in square footage but it does have the most variety in facilities.



Map of Local Gym Locations





Martha Kobus

OVERHEARDS

"He left gonorrhea all over my white board"- Mr. Brewer about Mr. Herlihy

"This reminds me of the time I was in a Mexican prison." -Mr. Lawrence

"I was thinking that guy kind of looked like Brad Pitt or Mr. Whalen" - Jake Gross

"You don't have to be buff - you have to be toned."-Michael Noronha

"It makes my eyelashes all crusty!" Kylee Drugan-Eppich

"If I wasn't here right now you would be the hottest person in the room." Danny Day

"I made Mrs. Sullivan a lasagna."- Mrs. Wotton

"If we get pregnant will you make us one too?"- Kellee Jackson

"He's a lot shorter when he's on his knees...Oops, I didn't mean for that to sound bad." Monsieur Lord

"Ok, who in this room has licked a nine volt battery?" Martha Kobus

"Wait, do you get high?" Bridget Burns

"It's better when it's long!" Dylan Strogen

"What a girl wants, what a girl needs, is always Tim Lawrence," Aaron Moss



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